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November 154

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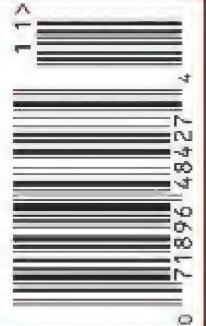
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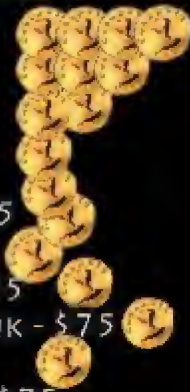
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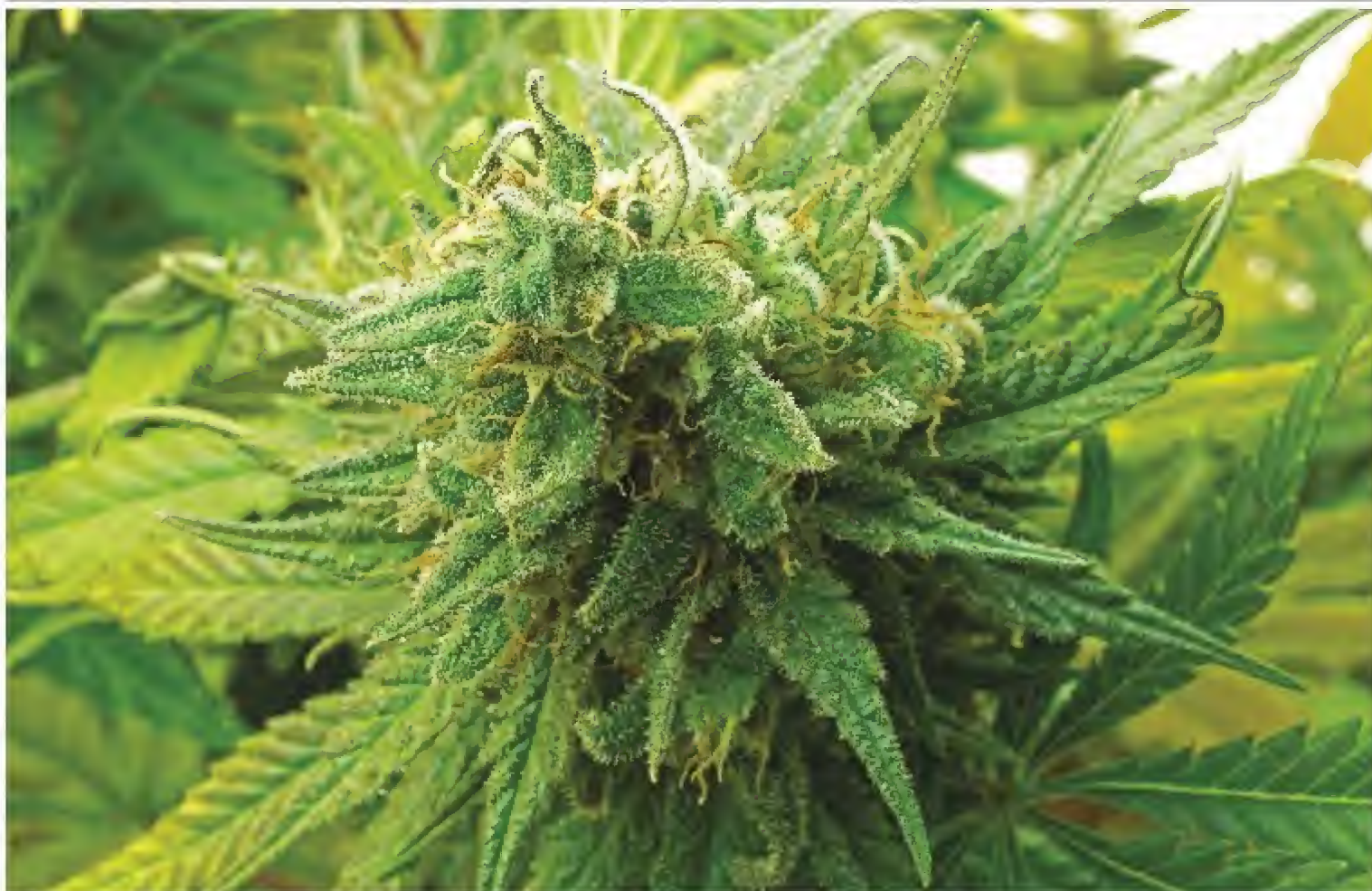
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HIGH TIMES NOVEMBER



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Danny Danko reviews all-in-one growboxes, from the pricey to the affordable, from cutting-edge units to simple and easy boxes for the beginning indoor grower. Bonus: "Closet Growing" by David Bienenstock reveals the ins and outs of cultivating connoisseur-quality cannabis in a space as small as your closet.

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By Daniel Kelly

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90 High Times Interview: Vicente Fox

Former Mexican President Vicente Fox sits down with *High Times* for an exclusive interview on the Drug War violence that has been ravaging his country since he left office in 2006, and how he is now focused on a singular goal that will help curb the carnage: legalizing pot. *By Justin Hampton*

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Alexis Bryer is the mama behind Mama's Glass.

► Glass Artist of the Month

Alexis Bryer began blowing glass at end of 2007, just a few months after the birth of her daughter. In less than three years, she was supporting herself and her daughter solely off her glass art; her daughter's father had passed away. She started Mama's Glass, a name coined by her daughter who accompanied Alexis as she made her pipe deliveries: "This is my mama's glass!" The name stuck.

The glass community, her "family," has been hugely inspirational for Alexis and she gives special praise to Christina Cody and Tammy Ball, "who have always been there throughout my career to encourage me," she says.

Alexis has entered a number of glass art competitions and placed several times. Best known for working with dichro (glass with layers of oxides or metals), she specializes in flowers and "girly glass." To that end, in February, she started a "high fashion" line consisting of wearable waterpipes that attach to fashionable clothing.

"Glassblowing," she says, "has given me the freedom to set my own schedule and spend as much time as possible with my daughter. She's been the biggest motivation to never give up in this industry. Without my daughter, dogs, friends and family, I wouldn't be where I am today."

POT POLL

The Creative Stoner

Our most recent poll asked a simple question: "Does pot enhance your creativity?" Nearly 90 percent of you said, "Hell, yes!" Just a handful answered "no" and a handful more said it had no effect. So the next question is, "Why does pot stoke creativity?"

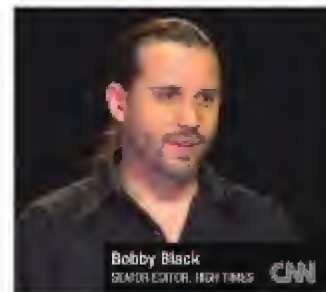
Who knows? But we'll go with the words of Dr. Charles T. Tart, who wrote in *Altered States of Consciousness*: "The person...is the most important determinant of how the enhancement will appear." In other words, it's up to you whether or not you choose to be creative.

Check out hightimes.com/polls and cast your vote in our latest poll.

Pot enhances my creativity... **86%**

Pot detracts from my creativity... **3%**

Pot has no effect on my creativity... **11%**



► Bobby Black on CNN

If cops had done a more thorough investigation and hadn't written off the brutal murders of the Waltham Three as a drug rip-off, could the Boston Marathon bombing have been prevented? To address some of the many unanswered questions, CNN's Deb Feyerick speaks with senior editor Bobby Black on *Out Front with Erin Burnett*. Watch at hightimes.com/watch/cnn-investigates-missed-clues-waltham-three-murders.

► Danko's 40th

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko is celebrating the 40th installment of his highly popular podcast *Free Weed from Danny Danko*. Tune in to *Free Weed* for the latest in cultivation news, interviews with top cannabis celebs and Danny's grow advice.



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¡Viva Mota!

Mexico has paid a steep price for America's sins. We are the world's top consumer of illegal drugs, many of which come from or through Mexico on their way to our lungs, noses or veins. The country is like our Dorian Gray painting—the harder we party up here, the uglier and more violent things get down there. The violence we see today is a testament to the failure of prohibition on a grand scale. When President Felipe Calderón assumed power in 2006 and militarized the Drug War in his country, we were able to unequivocally see that prohibition is a failed

strategy in the face of enormous demand and infinite supply. George W. Bush and Barack Obama poured billions of American dollars into Calderón's effort, and what did they get for the money? More than 60,000 dead in Mexico, and right now, in most cities in the United States, you can purchase marijuana, cocaine and heroin over the phone as easy as you can order a pizza from Domino's.



Members of the Mexican Army sort through drugs seized from a Mexican drug cartel.

Mexico deserves its share of blame for its troubles. Mexican corruption is the biggest enabler of the cartels. From the street cop to the upper echelons of the government and the military, corruption is endemic, to the point where one cannot imagine a realistic path to its purging. In fact, it's hard to conceive of an end to any of the problems surrounding the Mexican narcotics trade. And while that may be the case, the subject of this month's *High Times* interview has a few thoughts as to how the situation can be improved. His credentials are pretty good—from 2000 to 2006, Vicente Fox was Mexico's president.

His first suggestion is to legalize marijuana.

The simple fact is, if marijuana makes up 30 to 40 percent of the cartels' trade, and that money disappears, the same thing would happen to them as would happen to any corporation that suddenly lost a third of its profits. It would be economically crippling. Now, you could look at Vicente Fox, point to his own failed attempts at militaristic drug interdiction and say, "Well, Mr. President... why didn't you legalize it when you had the chance?" It's a reasonable question. But I think you will find greater value in hearing the man out. I have never witnessed a former head of state so adamantly and eloquently state the case for the legalization of cannabis.

So, enjoy this interview; it's the very first time that the president of any nation has sat down and discussed the issues with *High Times*. We hope it's not the last.

Chris Simunek
Editor-In-Chief

HIGH TIMES

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Texas Border Patrol Horror Story

My husband has his medical recommendation in the state of California. Up until recently, he was working as a commercial truck driver in Fresno. He was traveling from Fresno to Orlando about two weeks ago and was transporting our three pets in anticipation of our move to Central Florida. He was going through the checkpoint at Sierra Blanca, TX, when the Border Patrol had their dogs check his truck. They found a roach of marijuana that he had in the pocket of a pair of shorts in his dirty laundry and impounded his truck along with our two dogs and one cat. They told him they would take good care of our animals and held him in jail for close to 48 hours. When he was finally released, our cat was missing, and we believe he is dead. Our two dogs were left in the hot cab of the truck without food or water, and we are lucky they're still alive. We contacted the local news station, which went out and did a report, but the attitude we've gotten is that because he had marijuana on him, no one cares that these people abused our animals and killed our cat.

I was upset because the news reporter, along with the sheriff, thought the whole thing was funny. The reporter, from the NBC affiliate in San Antonio, has the sheriff on camera admitting that they held our animals in a hot truck for two days and that they were not obligated to take care of them. Really? It is against the law to keep pets in a hot vehicle—and these people should know that.

I am really beside myself over this whole thing, and we are at a loss as to what to do. These people committed three counts of animal abuse, which in the state of Texas is a felony, just so they could arrest my husband for a minuscule amount of marijuana. I am not sure how this can be justified. And now our cat is dead—not to mention the \$1,800 they charged my husband to get his truck back and the \$1,000 to bond out. And that is just the beginning; we don't know what else these people are going to do.

LN

We Are the 52 Percent!

I've been reading *High Times* for over 35 years, and I wonder how many of the 52 percent who think cannabis should be legal are readers as well. I want to start a conspiracy. Okay, you 52 percenters out there, let's organize. I live in Missouri and face some of the toughest pot laws in the country. Yes, to say I live in the Bible



These people committed three counts of animal abuse, which in the state of Texas is a felony, just so they could arrest my husband for a minuscule amount of marijuana.

Belt would be an understatement. However, we are not as backward as we were just a few years ago: We have started to question the wasteful and deadly War on Drugs and ask if cannabis should even be a part of it. Fifty-two percent of Americans think it should not. We are the majority! We have the power! Fifty-two percent is the kind of number that can make politicians shake in their boots. But who do we vote for, and how do we know what they'll do once in office? We can't go only by what they say. I thought Obama was going to be good for ending prohibition according to what he said. How did that turn out for us?

I recently learned that the Missouri legislature had a bill introduced to allow the state's residents to decide whether or not to permit the use of medical marijuana via a ballot initiative. The House speaker, Tim Jones, decided not to send it to committee, and now the bill is dead. This means that Missouri residents won't get a chance to voice their opinion by voting on this bill in November. This is not right; this is not how our system is supposed to work. Being one of the 52 percent, I absolutely will not vote for Tim Jones to be re-elected as a result of this.

I would like to know which politicians have hindered bills to reform cannabis laws in any form—medical marijuana,

decriminalization or outright legalization. Then

I would know how

to vote. So hey, *High Times*, how about starting a political section in your fine magazine? Tell us 52 percenters which politicians are holding things up so we can oust them. Just a page that lists a particular bill and who voted against it will be enough. Tell us in bold print and we will show them the majority rules. Which do you think they'd rather do: legalize cannabis or lose their cushy jobs in Congress or state government? We can do this if we are informed. When the government fears the people, we have democracy; when the people fear the government, we have tyranny.

Highguy

Good point. We will continue to bring you news on politics and legislation, but you should also check out our friends at NORML (norml.org) for even more detailed information on the battle for legalization on the federal, state and local level.

Ready to Legalize

Cannabis consumers around the world need to be more active in shaping the cannabis market now that legalization is looming in the near future. Here in Illinois we have struggled for nearly a decade simply trying to pass medical cannabis legislation helping sick people in our state, and in that process we have compromised the rights of patients time and time again. All of this was done in an effort to pass any medical cannabis bill but now we are not much farther than where we started and what we wanted to get away from—treating cannabis consumers, whether they are patients or recreational users, as second-class citizens.

One such compromise was patients being able to grow their own. This crucial aspect of any legal cannabis market is something that cannabis consumers need to protect. By forcing patients and/or consumers to purchase cannabis instead of being able to produce it, we are setting ourselves up to be at the mercy of the producers which will likely end up being big businesses over time. If we can preserve our right to grow cannabis we can combat inflated prices and large scale companies from dominating the market.

DL



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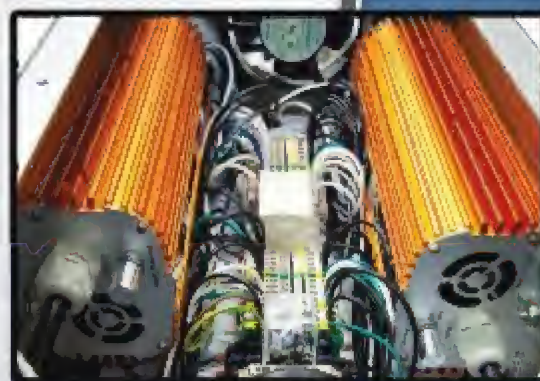
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KIEF IN THE RIF Morocco is infamous for its hard brown hash. In the dusty valleys of the Rif Mountains cannabis grows unchecked, tended to by village farmers who make their living selling the profitable crop. Daniel Kelly (pictured, left) spent a week living with these farmers while they went about their day-to-day business. Read the full story on page 54.





Contact High

GLOBAL POT-ULATION Cannabis is loved all over the world, and African tribes use marijuana, or *dagga*, in shamanic rituals that include singing, drumming and dancing. Check out our stash of antique African paraphernalia and cannabis curios on page 74, and discover the fascinating facts behind marijuana's legends and lore. *Photo by Lochfoot*









November 2013 **High Times**

HIGHER PURSUITS An Indian *sadhu*, or holy man, smokes cannabis from a chillum pipe, a traditional South Asian ritual technique for communicating with deities. Learn more about the origins of marijuana usage from Robert C. Clark and Mark Merlin on page 82. *Photo by Rohit Markande.*

17

**Contact
High**

DON'T LET YOUR JOB GO UP IN SMOKE!

KEEP IT UP!

OHHHH YEEAH!

NO WIMPS HERE!

BEWARE THE WIMPINATOR!

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The Joy of Jell-O

Jell-O shots that really hit the target! p.34



Penalties for pot use by athletes are becoming more severe, even as emerging evidence shows that it's a beneficial aid in recovery.



A Level Playing Field

The legalization of marijuana is changing the game for athletes. *By Russ Belville*

As a 27-year-old female wrestler, Stephany Lee dreamed of winning a gold medal at the 2012 Olympics in the 72-kilogram weight class. But that dream was shattered when USA Wrestling informed her that she was being suspended from the team for a year and would not be allowed to compete in London.

Her offense? Testing positive for marijuana metabolites from a joint she'd smoked weeks before. Nick Delpopolo, the number-one US athlete in judo in the men's 73 kg competition, was also booted that same year for a positive marijuana test.

In professional combat sports, many boxers and mixed-martial artists have also suffered for their marijuana use. Recently,

boxer Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. was fined \$900,000, and UFC fighter Pat Healy surrendered \$130,000 in prize money, both as a result of testing positive for pot.

"Right now, I just cannot believe that a performance-enhancing drug and marijuana can be treated the same," said Marc Ratner, vice president of regulatory affairs for the Ultimate Fighting Championship, in an article in *USA Today*. He was referring to the punishments for marijuana, which can equal or exceed the punishments for excessive testosterone, blood doping or anabolic steroids.

The head of the UFC, Dana White, is also critical of the decision by the patchwork of state athletic commissions that

govern combat sports to treat marijuana like a performance-enhancing drug. "Forget about PEDs," White told a press conference in Las Vegas. "If we get into this random testing you guys are talking about, you know how many guys would probably test positive for marijuana? It would probably be off the charts." He estimated that 400 of his 475 athletes were smoking pot at times.

Marijuana's ability to relax the mind, ease pain and increase flexibility are cited by some athletic commissions as the reason to treat it like a PED. However, Dick Pound, the lawyer who headed up the first international efforts to standardize the drug testing of athletes, points to

« public-relations pressure from the United States as the reason marijuana was first included in the anti-doping codes.

“From a sports perspective, I was rather ambivalent” when it came to testing for marijuana, Pound acknowledged at a May meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency. “As we morphed into WADA, the USA was very keen to have it included.”

At that spring meeting, WADA raised its threshold for marijuana metabolites in urine from 15 nanograms to 150 ng. The reason for the increase: to help ensure that someone failing the test wasn’t getting caught for recreational use or secondhand exposure. Whether the legalization of recreational use in Colorado and Washington informed that decision was unmentioned in reports on the proceedings.

Pound’s assertion that the United States conducts a propaganda battle against marijuana by severely punishing athletes who use it is bolstered by the recent actions of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which regulates college athletics in America. While WADA is raising the international threshold by a factor of 10, the NCAA is actually reducing its standard from 15 ng to 5 ng, thereby making the test easier to fail. Yet the NCAA’s chief medical officer, Brian Hainline, admits that “with regard to marijuana’s impact on performance,”

Athletes at all levels continue to be penalized and suspended for choosing cannabis as a safer, natural alternative to addictive painkillers.

the members of the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports “universally agreed that marijuana is not a performance-enhancing drug.”

Even so, Hainline notes, “a positive test results in a one-year penalty, similar to a positive test for performance-enhancing drugs such as anabolic-androgenic steroids.” The justification for treating pot like steroids, he adds, is simply that “we do not believe that student athletes should be ingesting marijuana.”

In professional sports, the National Basketball Association changed its drug-testing policy a couple of years ago. It no longer tests for marijuana use in the off-season, presumably because the league’s owners want there to be at least five eligible players left for each team to suit up. Charles Oakley, an NBA veteran, once opined that 60 percent of NBA players used marijuana, and other reports since then tend to suggest he was underestimating.

Meanwhile, over one-third of US states recognize the medical use of marijuana,

and two have legalized recreational use. However, athletes at all levels continue to be penalized and suspended for choosing cannabis as a safer, natural alternative to addictive painkillers.

Pro athletes using drugs is nothing new. But these days, many use cannabis to recover from their intense training, and it also provides other medicinal benefits. Science is showing that the compound CBD (cannabidiol) has potent neuroprotective properties. In 1998, researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health found that natural cannabinoids protect against the effects of head traumas like concussion—something of great interest to football or hockey players. Cannabis has also been found to stave off the effects of the neurodegeneration found in Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, MS and ALS patients—something of great interest to boxers or mixed-martial artists. Indeed, one wonders how much more functional the great Muhammad Ali would be today if cannabis medicine had been legal and utilized against his concussion-induced Parkinson’s disease? 🌿

Maddening Myths

For the Feds, telling lies about pot is a full-time job. *By Mark Miller*



Not Enough Studies

Myth: The Feds claim there is insufficient research regarding marijuana, which prevents them from rescheduling it so that it can be used medicinally (as cocaine and oxycodone currently are).

Reality: It’s the most widely analyzed plant in human history, with over 20,000 studies and reviews published worldwide to date concerning its chemistry and pharmacology.



The Gateway Drug

Myth: Consuming cannabis, especially for children, is a conduit to abusing hard drugs like coke and heroin.

Reality: Researchers since the 1980s have identified alcohol as the primary “gateway drug.” Also, an extensive study by researchers at the University of Florida in 2012 found that high-school seniors who drink are 16 times more likely to use illegal drugs.



Causes Cancer

Myth: Smoking pot presents many of the same dangers as smoking tobacco.

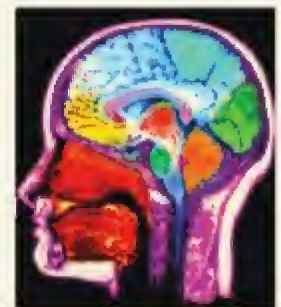
Reality: Studies have found that pot poses no significant risk of cancer for users, while other evidence points to weed actually helping to cure the Big C: THC has been shown to shrink tumors in rats, and famed med-pot patient Angel Raich’s oncologist attributed her brain-cancer suppression to cannabis.



Causes Crime

Myth: Legal medical marijuana dispensaries escalate neighborhood crime.

Reality: They actually cut down on black-market activity, as substantiated by a 2011 RAND study which found that crime actually increased (up to 114 percent) in LA ‘hoods where dispensaries had closed. LA City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, an avid pot foe, pressured RAND to retract the report one month later.



Harms Brain Function

Myth: Getting high regularly causes cognitive impairment and kills brain cells.

Reality: Even heavy pot use has no detrimental effect on cognition, according to a 2001 Harvard study. A 2009 Univ. of Saskatchewan report found that synthetic THC increased brain-cell formation by 40 percent. Recent (2013) research from the Univ. of Bonn shows pot strengthens crucial cellular subunits of the brain.



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Verboten!

Early this past summer, a German activist group calling itself A Few Autonomous Flower Children sowed several kilograms of pot seeds in parks, planter boxes and gardens throughout the Deutschland college town of Göttingen.

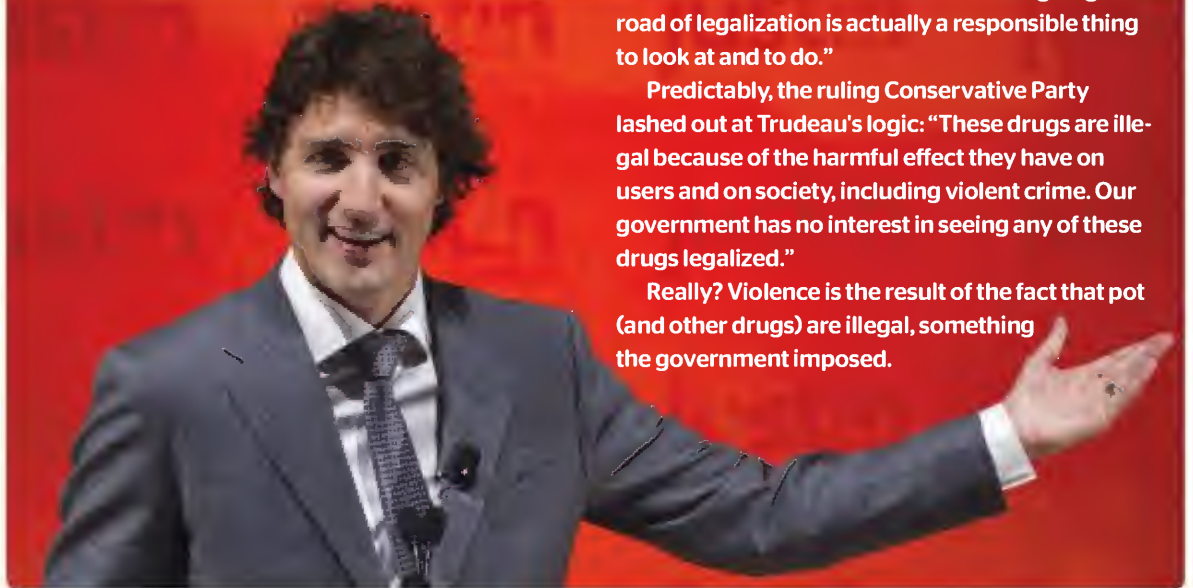
The Flower Children released a statement explaining their mission: “We can’t set eyes on this useful and beautiful plant because it’s absolutely forbidden in Germany to grow it.” They confirmed that they’d scattered pot seeds on public and private property as a protest “against the demonization of cannabis.”

Green Youth, a chapter of Germany’s influential Green Party, openly supports the activist group’s efforts. Green Youth posted photos of the Flower Children’s plants on its website, showing weed growing in meadows, in front of homes, even near a police station!

But the German authorities were not amused. Police are using these shots in their investigation to bust the clandestine cultivators, while the local parks department has already removed 70 of the plant sites, with intentions to wipe out the rest—eventually.

Trudeau's Truth

The son of the late Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who candidly admitted smoking pot, recently voiced support for legalizing recreational marijuana. Good news! Justin Trudeau just happens to be leader of the nation’s Liberal Party.



In July, Trudeau disclosed he’s “evolved” from merely supporting pot decriminalization and now advocates outright legalization: “I was more hesitant to even decriminalize not so much as five years ago. But I did a lot of listening, a lot of reading and a lot of paying attention to the very serious studies that have come out and I realize that going the road of legalization is actually a responsible thing to look at and to do.”

Predictably, the ruling Conservative Party lashed out at Trudeau’s logic: “These drugs are illegal because of the harmful effect they have on users and on society, including violent crime. Our government has no interest in seeing any of these drugs legalized.”

Really? Violence is the result of the fact that pot (and other drugs) are illegal, something the government imposed.

New Hampshire Okays Medical Pot

Governor Maggie Hassan has signed a bill making New Hampshire the 19th state to legalize medical pot. Qualified patients will now be allowed to possess up to two ounces in the Granite State. The marijuana must be obtained from one of four licensed dispensaries established under state law. Each dispensary will be authorized to store up to six ounces of pot per qualified patient.

Unfortunately, patients will not be allowed to grow their own medicine, something that Governor Hassan has always opposed. She also persuaded the state Senate to eliminate post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a qualifying condition.

Now that the bill has been signed, a commission will be appointed to work on implementation. However, it could be two years before the state’s medical marijuana program is operational.

Jailhouse Rock

Karey Lee Woolsey released an album in July that went straight to No. 3 on the Amazon Adult Alternative chart—a somewhat amazing feat, since he is currently behind bars in a Yazoo City, MS prison for selling pot! Woolsey, 36, is in the midst of a 13-year sentence, the result of a plea bargain that the Cape Coral, FL, resident took in 2008 after being busted for pot trafficking.

A Million Miles Away, which was recorded prior to his incarceration, debuted on Amazon’s Miscellaneous (No.



7), *Alternative Rock* (No. 78) and overall (No. 419) charts.

A YouTube video of the album’s first single, a plaintive, piano-driven lament titled “Walls Around Me,” features Woolsey’s younger brother in a fictitious prison-yard scenario that evokes the pain and suffering

that pot prisoners endure.

Woolsey is scheduled to be released in 2019, though he could be free as early as 2017. Maybe then he can reap the rewards of his musical success and record a follow-up album.

How about *Out of the Joint* as a title?



DEA Targets Washington

In July, federal agents raided several medical marijuana dispensaries in the Seattle area. DEA spokeswoman Jodie Underwood confirmed the raids but would not give specific details of the operation. According to a local medical marijuana attorney, targeted dispensaries included Seattle Cross, Tacoma Cross and Bayside Collective in Olympia. An employee of Bayside Collective told reporters that DEA agents seized marijuana and the personal cell phones of employees, but did not take computers and cash. About a dozen plants and a quarter-pound of dry pot were taken from Bayside. According to that employee, agents said the raid was the result of a two-year investigation, but they offered no further details. No arrests were made at Bayside but employees were “federally subpoenaed.”

Washington State voters legalized recreational marijuana last November. Although these search warrants involved medical dispensaries, pot advocates have been waiting for any indication as to whether the federal government would interfere with states that have legalized recreational pot. While the DEA's actions are a bad indication, it's still too early to interpret policy based on these raids.



Rescheduling Reefer

Getting Congress or President Obama to reschedule marijuana seems impossible. So maybe it's up to the third branch of government—the Supreme Court—to right this wrong. If Americans for Safe Access (ASA) has its way, the criminal injustice of classifying marijuana as a Schedule I drug—defined as one having no accepted medical value—will finally be reversed by the high court.

In July, ASA announced that it was filing an appeal with the Supreme Court in the wake of a decision in January by the US Court of Appeals to uphold the DEA's 2011 denial of a decade-old

activist petition to reschedule pot. In the appeal, two issues have been presented to the Supreme Court for deliberation: whether FDA approval is required to determine if a given substance such as pot has a currently accepted medical use; and whether the Controlled Substances Act even requires the DEA to consider the relative abuse potential of a given substance when scheduling.

If the Supreme Court opts not to hear the case—it only takes on one percent of all appeals annually—the previous appellate-court ruling will stand and marijuana will remain a Schedule I drug, side by side with heroin and more restricted than OxyContin or cocaine.

HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Burma: New Opium Eradication Plan Announced

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime announced a new peace initiative in Burma's eastern Shan State on June 28, aimed at facilitating poppy eradication in the world's second-largest opium-producing country. The government has pledged to cooperate with the rebel Shan State Army (SSA) in the pact. The anticipated four-year, multimillion-dollar plan seeks to improve the state's infrastructure, health and education. "There are increasing rates of poverty and food insecurity," said UNODC country coordinator Jason Eligh. "Opium farmers are not bad people; they're just poor and hungry." Burma, which has ranked just behind Afghanistan in terms of poppy cultivation for the past 20 years, is said to account for 23 percent of the global opium supply.

Colombia: Four Dead in Coca Eradication Protests

At least four people are dead in a protest campaign by coca growers in Colombia's Norte de Santander department, near the Venezuelan border. Some 10,000 people from the Catatumbo Valley have joined the protests, which erupted on June 10, demanding



Dutch pot quagmire

Holland: Legal Battles Over Coffeehouse Crackdown

Prosecutors in the Netherlands are seeking one-month suspended sentences for the owners and workers of cannabis cafes in Maastricht for selling pot to foreigners in defiance of a new law. At the same time, the Dutch government was ordered to pay damages to the owners of cannabis cafes after a court in The Hague ruled that the new measure, which turns coffeehouses into members-only clubs, was too harsh. The amount that the state must pay has yet to be determined.



that the government halt the eradication of coca crops. Protesters insist the *cocaleros* have not been offered alternatives to provide for their families. Juan Carlos Quintero, vice president of the Catatumbo Campesino Association, declared that "we directly blame President Juan Manuel Santos" for the deaths after police opened fire on the protesters.

Brazil: 10 Dead as Police Raid Favela

At least 10 people were killed on June 25 when elite troops from the Special Operations Battalion (BOPE) of Brazil's Military Police raided the Nova Holanda *favela* (shantytown) in Rio de Janeiro. Authorities claimed that the deaths

occurred following a gun battle between police and criminals taking advantage of the protests sweeping through the city to loot and steal. One police officer was reportedly among the dead.

Brutal anti-drug raids in the *favelas* are frequent, fueling local anger. Planned *favela* evictions to make way for new sports stadiums have also been a key grievance in the protest movement now sweeping Brazil.

Peru: Life Term for Neo-Senderista

Peru's National Penal Chamber on June 7 sentenced one of the last "historic" leaders of the Shining Path guerrilla movement to life in prison on terrorism, drug-trafficking and money-laundering charges. Florencio Flores Hala, a.k.a. "Comrade Artemio," raised his fist in defiance as the sentence was read at a naval base in Callao, where the trial was carried out under



tight security. He said that he preferred the death penalty over life in prison, adding: "I have nothing to ask forgiveness for; I have nothing to regret."

Guatemala: Police Officers Executed in Narco Attack

Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina said he's considering imposing a state of emergency in the highland area of Salcajá, after an armed attack on a National Police substation on June 14 resulted in eight officers dead and their commander abducted. Authorities said the slain officers were disarmed, made to lie face down on the ground and then shot in the head execution-style. Pérez Molina attributed the attack to

drug gangs operating in the area, with possible links to Mexican criminal networks such as the Sinaloa Cartel or Los Zetas. Guatemala has been experiencing a wave of violence that now claims an average of 16 lives every day—one of the highest rates in Latin America. Authorities say that around 50 percent of the violent deaths in Guatemala are linked to the drug trade and gang violence.

West Bank and Gaza: Lawyer Beaten, Cops Stoned

Clashes on June 6 between the Hamas police force and suspected drug dealers at Beit Lahiya in the Gaza Strip left one person dead. Authorities said that police were tipped off about a family hiding large amounts of unspecified illegal drugs and Tramadol pills in its home. Police obtained a search warrant, but when they arrived at the premises, they were met by hurled stones and even gunfire from local residents.

Meanwhile, Palestinian lawyers in the West Bank announced a strike on June 13 after anti-drug police in Bethlehem assaulted and strip-searched an attorney. The lawyers' union said in a statement: "One could believe such practices by the Israeli occupation, but not by our own people."

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.



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“I’m not one of those get-stoned-and-write-a-song kind of guys.”

CoTW tramp across the mud- and beer-sticky floor and into the bathroom, which, with its loud shower curtain and paint-splashed sink, is in stark contrast to the austere, peeling white of the rest of the space. Coolati is the only band member who currently smokes. He dips his head into a bong while Peebles explains that he gave it up upon moving to New York: “It made

me paranoid.”

Coolati exhales, then offers this: “I’m not one of those get-stoned-and-write-a-song kind of guys. Weed’s fun to smoke and listen to cool music ... God-dammit!!” he exclaims as the THC hits him.

A van honks outside. Coolati bolts downstairs to see who it is, followed by a slightly more mellow Busch and a reasonably rejuvenated Peebles. Call of the Wild are looking forward to a tour of the South with local skronk-garagers K-Holes; when that party winds down, there will be many more to throw in NYC, a couple of them maybe surfing on an in-the-works 7-incher while the band plans their next move. It probably won’t take them long: As the now-empty room reveals, Call of the Wild aren’t very good at sitting around.✱

Smoked Out

Call of the Wild hit the bong ... and the road. *By Polly Watson*

In their prime, Duran Duran looked not a bit like the gray villain from *Barbarella* for whom they are named. Despite their biblical moniker, Avenged Sevenfold churn forth a mix of hard rock and metalcore that recalls nothing holy. Call of the Wild, however, easily conjure the Jack London novella after which they were christened: howling, fast and pack-tight, starving sled dogs descending on Brooklyn from the tire-chain roads of the frozen Midwest that spawned them.

High Times caught up with the band at their practice space on a cold, gray early-winter day. Drummer Allison Busch and guitarist Johnny Coolati live there: Busch sleeps in an alcove off the makeshift stage, Coolati on a raised platform that serves as a DJ booth for the band’s frequent

ragers, at which they and their friends perform. When it’s warm, the band goes outside and plays for passersby on the Williamsburg Bridge, whose walkway descends adjacent to their roof. They have stiff competition in the form of a guy who hangs out there with an old-school boom box, cranking Genesis tunes, shouting and, on one memorable occasion, “hanging onto the fence with his pants open, pissing and puking at the same time,” Coolati says. He looks wistfully out the window as he speaks, but the walkway is empty, the clatter of cars over metal the only sound.

Bassist Maxwell Peebles arrives. The guy can fire it up onstage, but today he’s subdued, clinging absentmindedly to the coffee cup full of weed he’s been given. Well, almost full of weed: There

wasn’t enough to fill it, but Busch, who once worked as a prop stylist, deftly crumples up an old set list and shoves it into the bottom of the cup. *Voilà*—it overfloweth.

The band’s just back from their maiden US tour, unscathed and triumphant, apart from a busted transmission and a Thanksgiving spent in a Hardee’s in Breezewood, PA. (“McDonald’s was closed!” Coolati says incredulously.) Their debut album, *Leave Your Leather On* (Kemado), has been racking up press on music-head blogs like *BrooklynVegan* and breeding vicious fights on the *Vice* website.



Dead, Jail, or Rock’n’Roll

Leave Your Leather On takes its title in part from the only blanket singer Johnny Coolati had when he was jailed the last night the album was being mixed: his leather jacket!

Blunt After Blunt

Rapper Danny Brown is down with the green. *By Chris Parker*

Danny Brown has pot

to thank for his success. Not directly, mind you—as a teen drug dealer in Detroit, pot users were almost the iconoclastic rapper's undoing.

“When you're selling weed, you're dealing with your friends, people pulling up to your house at two in the morning after the club,” Brown says. “It ain't like that with crack-heads. They're knocking on your door quietly; they're scared to do *anything*. People that smoke weed, they don't care. They're pulling up with sounds blasting. That's how we got in trouble.”

No sooner had he been arrested than Brown violated his probation and went on the lam. A few years later, he was picked up and spent a year in jail. That was all the motivation he needed to pursue music. “It was pretty much all or nothing,” he says. “I'd rather die trying to make it in music than die in jail.”

Despite his rap sheet, gangsta's not, strictly speaking, Brown's style. Sure, he has moments of brash boasting and violent exaggeration. But they're generally intended for comic effect, as when he promises to make Sarah Palin “deep-throat till she hiccup” or imagines himself as “River Phoenix '93 VIP with some drugged-up porn hoes all around me.”

Rapping for his fellow clockers on the corner as a youth, Brown sought to raise the game. Gangsta rap “has been going on for 20 years,” he says. “You've got to find new ways to shock the listener, because to me



“Hip-hop still has to have that edginess to it. Right now, the edginess is sex.”

hip-hop is still about being a music that you can't listen to around your parents. It still has to have that edginess to it. Right now, the edginess is sex.”

Brown made his solo debut in 2010 with *The Hybrid*. That same year, he released *Hawaiian Snow* with G-Unit's Tony Yayo,

though he didn't wind up on 50 Cent's label—in part because of his personal style, which includes skinny jeans



Danny Brown Cheat Sheet

“My mom read me a lot of Dr. Seuss, so when I first started talking, I talked in rhymes.”

“My first rap album was LL Cool J, and my first concert was Fresh Prince with LL Cool J, Run DMC and the Beastie Boys.”

and a wild, frizzy half-mullet.

Instead, he signed with Brooklyn indie Fool's Gold and dropped his *XXX* as a free download. *Spin* named it the best hip-hop album of 2011, highlighted by tracks like “Blunt After Blunt” and “Adderall Admiral.”

The latest by the daily smoker and dedicated G Pen user is titled *Old*—short for “Old Danny Brown,” and also a nod to Ol' Dirty Bastard. “He was great—a genius, to be honest,” Brown says. “He did everything freely. He wasn't pressured to make music; he had fun making music, and it came across. I have that same intention.”

Brown felt no pressure from Fool's Gold and intentionally took his time with *Old*. “I didn't want to overthink it or try too hard to impress somebody—I just wanted to let it do me,” he explains. “On *XXX* I was experimenting a lot, trying to figure out where I wanted to go and what works. I think, with this album, it's me perfecting that and showing what I've learned.”

And while, at 32, he's not quite “old,” Brown does feel he's better equipped for success.

“I guess everything comes with age and time,” he says. “I'm just fortunate that it happened around this time. If it had happened in my twenties, I might not be having this conversation with you now. I might be over with.”



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Brother JT has a lot on his plate.



O Brother

Tripping balls with Brother JT's psychedelic revival show.

Eastern Pennsylvania had a baby, and they called it Brother JT, a.k.a. John Terlesky, former chief architect of the esteemed garage-party punks Original Sins and now a longtime solo standout headily hodgepodging the supremest sounds of our bleedin' times. When one slaps JT's new platter down to savor all of its glammy, greasy goodness, one is immediately struck by the rightness of this cornucopic record's name: *The Svelteness of Boogietude*.

"Yeah!" JT enthuses. "I mean, there's good in all kinds of music, and you want to have a full bag of tricks. It's all coming from what I hear—taking it out of its normal habitat and putting it somewhere a little offbeat."

There's some prime old-school songcraft in Brother JT's meltdown mélanges of

funk, arena rock, electro-disco, proggy jazz and sphincter-clenching power balladry. Check out the hard-thumping '70s blast of opener "Celebrate Your Face" or the self-explanatory "T. Rex Blues," the electro-country-tinged "Things I Like," the hair-tossing psych scorch of "Many Man Smoke" or the ruminative "I Still Like Cassettes" ("You gotta fast-forward or rewind").

Brother JT is, by nature, a psychedelic kind of guy, though you wouldn't call his music "psych" as such. Far from it: He's actually a bit of a pop artist—with a twist.

"I love psychedelics, and I love psychedelic music," JT says. "But when I'm sitting down to write, I'm trying to think about *anybody*, not just somebody who's under the influence."

You'll want to have a clear head when you peruse Brother JT's devilishly dense books of automatic writing, parts of which were included in his last two CDs (and can be viewed on his Tumblr page). But you can always catch a buzz for his highly amusing online talk show *Trippin' Balls*, wherein Brother JT and musical guests shoot the breeze about pop culture, zombies, time travel and other world events, usually while the host is frying himself to the max on LSD (the episodes are easily found on YouTube.)

When it comes to cannabis,

Brother JT likes edibles, partly because he's never been a cigarette smoker, but mainly because he finds the effects of eaten cannabis so interesting and unpredictable. The previous night, he and the band had a practice session, before which JT decided he'd try just a tiny corner of a marijuana-infused Rice Krispies treat.

"I thought, 'Well, maybe it'll help me out ... might loosen me up a little.' But as

Brother JT likes edibles—partly because he's never been a cigarette smoker, but mainly because he finds the effects of eaten cannabis so interesting and unpredictable.

soon as I got to the practice space, I knew I was in a world of trouble," he laughs. "We were learning these new songs, and I was remembering the chords and the words, but my vision was severely impaired and I was just freaking out. But a kind of muscle memory of the songs came through in the end."

He figures you need to know exactly how much and what strain of pot you're eating—and if the combination's just right, the creative sparks might fly.

"The first time I tried this a few months ago, I assume that what I had was *sativa*-based, because the first thing I wanted to do was write a song. I don't know how much that would happen with this stuff I've got now, because it's a much mellower kind of thing.

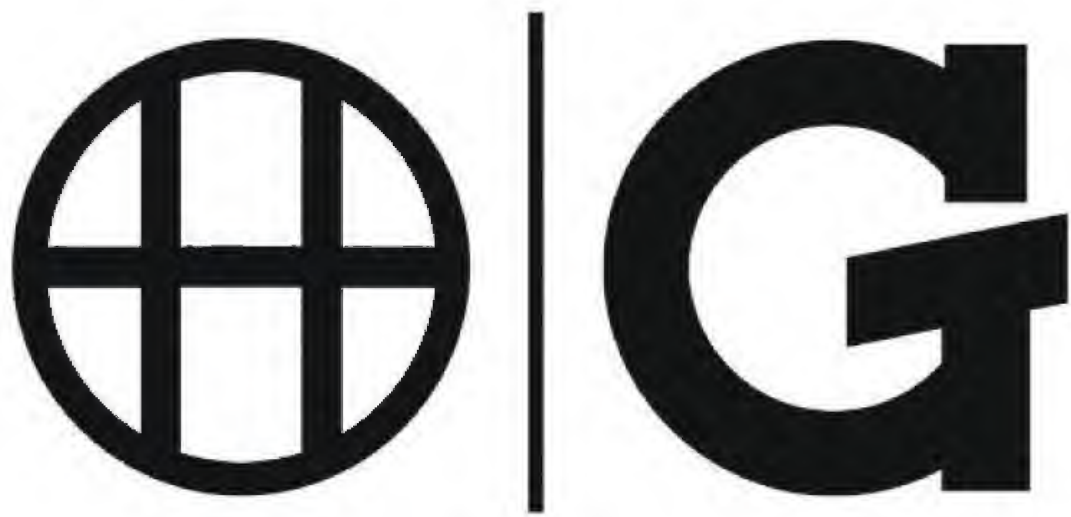
"But still," Brother JT concludes, "you get funny ideas you wouldn't get on acid."

John Payne



Auto Lysergic Verse

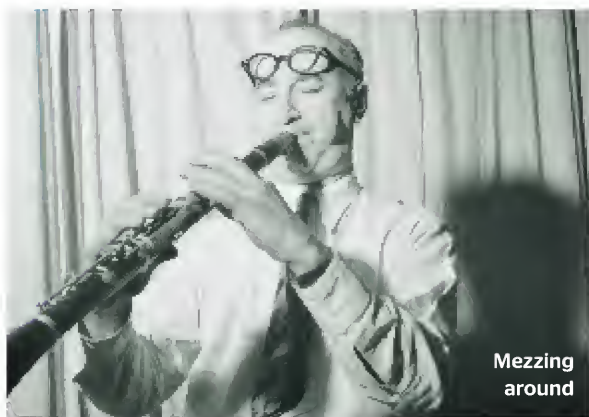
"I wanted to write lyrics in spontaneous ways, so I tried automatic writing in an altered nature. The results were shocking. When using LSD, mushrooms or pot on automatic writing, it flows out of you, and you don't have to think about what you're doing."



H U F X G P E N



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Too Cool To Fool

An anthology of literary outsiders.

It's a challenge in the twenty-worst century to discuss a lot of the things whose meanings have changed. For example, the original definition of "hip" referred to an outsider who didn't fit in; now da yoofs use it to connote popularity. "Quentin Tarantino's new movie is *hip*," I've heard it said. Can something that costs millions of dollars be hip? How the hell does one know what is hip and what is not?

"The hipster has the Taoist's aversion to pinning down the changing world," wrote the late actor and improv teacher Del Close. "To define something completely is to embalm it intellectually." Author Glenn O'Brien understands this, and his collection of short outsider shpritzes leaps subcultures in a



The Cool School
Edited by
Glenn O'Brien
(Library of America)

single tome. Of the true hipster's many signs, one is that he or she goes it alone. Despite the historical timeline of America's countercultural movements—hipsters to Beats to hippies to punks and now back to hipsters (it's like returning to the chorus after the solo!)—the authentic hipster ultimately functions existentially. Movements come and go, but free thought flourishes—not

widely, but always.

Among the rare birds in this ornithology are jazz musicians, at least two of whom—Mezz Mezzrow and Babs Gonzales—were pot retailers, by the way. The familiar deserving are here (Jack Kerouac, Norman Mailer, William Burroughs, Lenny Bruce, Terry Southern) alongside sadly overlooked geni (Bob Kaufman, Alexander Trocchi, Jack Smith). The still-breathing are repped by Ed Sanders, Amiri Baraka, Ishmael Reed and Nick Tosches. The late Lester Bangs's inclusion serves to remind that Lester actually made a living by soaring above the landlocked rules of hack journalism, something he could not get away with here in the twenty-worst.

So, as has been said ad nauseam about art: One might not be able to define hip, but you'll know it when you see it. O'Brien's anthology is hip—it works not only as quality lit, but as a reminder to readers to think for themselves. *Michael Simmons*

DVD RECOMMENDATIONS



A Boy and His Dog
Shout! Factory
(Blu-ray/DVD)

➤ The pre-designer-narc Don Johnson plays apocalypse survivor Vic in this dystopian sci-fi black comedy from the First Stoned Age (1975), based on a Harlan Ellison novella. Vic and his dog, Blood, can talk to each other, though the latter is the brains of the duo, cracking wise and

wry. Lured by a dame into an underground bourgeois Hades called Topeka (a lot like the real one), Vic fights the forces of servile reasonableness led by Jason Robards and ... well, best to go and check it out for yourself—this one is perfect for baked couch potatoes. *Mark Miller*



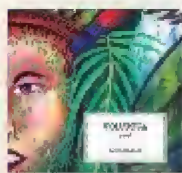
Hansel & Gretel Get Baked
(Cinedigm)

➤ Beware the little old lady from Pasadena ... especially if she's living in a Bavarian-style house, selling a super-dank strain called Black Forest. This retelling of "Hansel and Gretel" is horrifying, but not always scary. LA's underground weed market is taken over by a witch (Lara Flynn Boyle), who lures

young tokers with magical dope. One bummer: Hansel and Gretel don't know how to use a pull carb.

I'll give this one three out of five pot leaves: one for the concept, another for the seriously killer-sounding weed, and the last for Boyle's witch-on-woman scene. *Mary Ought Six*

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Voluptua
Jason Martin
(Turn the Page Publishing)

➤ Ellen Metran is a popular university professor who's risen through the ranks of academia without succumbing to harassment or bureaucracy. Long enchanted by shamanism and ayahuasca, Ellen dreams of the jungle. A chance encounter takes her to Peru, where she experiments with

the "God Vine." The worlds of academia and psychedelic exploration are painted and contrasted keenly by Martin, himself a former professor who has accrued over 20 years of experience in Peruvian shamanism. As a result, *Voluptua* is an enjoyable and enlightening read. *Mary Ought Six*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Of Montreal
Lousy With Sylvianbriar
(Polyvinyl)

➤ Of Montreal takes a detour on *Sylvianbriar*, eschewing earlier densely layered production values and electronica/Bowie/Prince influences in favor of a more organic approach. The new oM sound pulses in opener "Fugitive Air," with its Dylan-esque lyrics and attitude, and is reflected in "She Ain't

Speakin' Now." The retro riff propelling "Belle Glade Missionaries" is unlike any found in previous oM offerings, while on the shuffling "Hegira Emigré," front man Kevin Barnes commits poetic blasphemy: "I was conceived on Ash Wednesday and stoned on Christmas Day." *Mike Miller*



Red Dons
Notes on the Underground
(Grave Mistake)

➤ This Portland, OR, band includes veterans of long-running sugar punxx Clorox Girls and the shorter-lived, faster-bleeding Observers. The wrenching, knife-in-the-eye guitars of the latter are in evidence here, especially on the stellar opener "Cold Hearted," and the pop hooks of the former are all over this

EP. Vocals are right on top, swerving between shouted choruses and emotionally charged, full-throated singing. Super-melodic, coffee-and-truck-driver-speed punk, the kind where everyone has a blast in the pit and if your glasses get smashed, you'll at least get the frames back. Check it out! *Polly Watson*

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MUNCHIES

Ride the Dragon

Jell-O shots are green, not serene.

When *High Times'* Bobby Black found his match made in infamy heaven, you can easily imagine that the lovely, bad-to-the-rock'n'roll-bone April Black's bachelorette party was off the hook.

The centerpiece of the pre-gaming portion of the festivities was an epic icy-penile luge with rounded buttocks and frozen balls included for the caressing. Many a Green Dragon shot ejaculated through this masterpiece and

into our giddy mouths. That's all the details you're gonna get.

Not long after, I was at another party enjoying Jell-O shots when this potent potential combo hit me. I can't say I personally discovered the brave new world of marijuana Jell-O shots, but I can say that it's a beautiful one all its own, with a unique high that kicks in quicker than fat-based edibles and packs a lengthy punch—not to mention the booze buzz that comes along.

Jell-O shots are also a great Green Dragon delivery method, as the straight stuff can be a little rough going down. It's also an easily customizable recipe. Though the mojito flavor is my favorite to date, any high-proof alcohol will work for the tincture itself—Everclear is a favorite where available—and cherry, melon, orange or any of the other popular Jell-O flavors also work well. Extracts are optional, and a dollop of whipped cream on top is a nice touch for these other fruity concoctions. *Mary Ought Six*

MOJITO GREEN DRAGON JELL-O SHOTS

5 oz. rum-based Green Dragon
3 oz. box of lime Jell-O
1 cup water
3 oz. cold water
Fresh, coarsely chopped mint leaves and/or mint extract
1 oz. shot cups (15)

If you don't have Green Dragon at the ready, this is a plan-ahead party, so a GD how-to follows.

Bring the cup of water to a boil, then stir in the Jell-O until completely dissolved. If you're just using extract instead of fresh mint leaves, add a drop or two at the same time as the Jell-O mix—just don't overdo it, especially if you have the fresh leaves! Then turn off the heat and remove from the burner.

Now stir in the cold water, followed by the Green Dragon. Mix well and fill your cups, topping each with crushed

mint leaves (if applicable). Refrigerate for at least four hours, and you and your buds are good to go!

Simple Green Dragon recipe (make double or triple batches for bigger parties or future use!):

4 grams cannabis buds
5 oz. Bacardi 151

Activate the marijuana first by spreading it across a baking sheet and placing it in the oven at 150°F for 45 minutes. Next, crush the buds and put them in an airtight container with the rum. Store in a cool, dry place for two weeks (it's worth it!), shaking with vigor every third joint you smoke. Strain out the plant matter, squeezing every last cannabis-infused drop before use. *Stones up to 5 (15 shots, two to three shots per person).*

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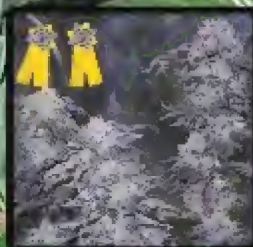
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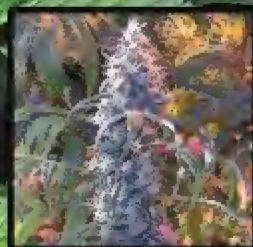
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FUCKING INCREDIBLE High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009

GSPOT High Times Top 10 Strains of 2009



New Study: Marijuana Leads to Lazy Reporting

Does smoking pot make you lazy, or is it just that lazy people love smoking pot? And what about the many creative and highly productive daily marijuana users in the world? Is it possible that cannabis actually makes some people *more* motivated?

Researchers at Imperial College, University College and King's College in London set out to answer those questions with a recently published joint study that measured dopamine levels in the brains of chronic marijuana users. And lo and behold, their conclusions—widely disseminated in the popular press—appear to justify one of society's oldest and most pervasive negative stereotypes about marijuana users. The Yahoo headline concerning the study—"Why Pot Heads Are Slackers"—was typical of the kind of measured analysis published around the world after the full report came out in the journal *Biological Psychiatry*.

However, this latest research proves no such thing. The study's most significant finding, is evidence casting serious doubt on a speculated-about link between adolescent marijuana use and the development of mental disorders.

"It has [previously] been assumed that cannabis

increases the risk of schizophrenia" noted lead author Dr. Michael Bloomfield, who affirmed the study's "unexpected results" showing that marijuana use actually *lowered* the chances of a subject suffering repeated psychotic episodes.

So how do we go from what sounds like another important health benefit of cannabis to hundreds of news stories blaming pot smoking for turning people into "lackadaisical loafers," as the *Huffington Post* phrased it? By ignoring the science and focusing instead on Bloomfield's offhand speculation that since dopamine levels in the brain are related to motivation, and chronic pot users in the study showed lower levels of dopamine, they might therefore be more likely to suffer from "amotivational syndrome." Never mind that the study included no means by which to measure "motivation" or that the sample included only 19 heavy marijuana users, all of whom admitted to suffering psychotic episodes while under the influence.

Not exactly a representative sample of anything. But why worry about that when you can just pump out another misleading headline at pot smokers' expense and move on? *David Bienenstock*

STEVEN WACKSMAN

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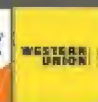
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TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

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	Phoenix	Bubba Kush	330
Arkansas	El Dorado	Blueberry	350
California	Los Angeles	SFV OG Kush	360
	Oakland	Granddaddy Purps	360
	San Francisco	Chocolope	280
Colorado	Denver	Golden Goat	300
		Tahoe OG	350
	Pueblo	Grateful Dawg	225
Delaware	Pike Creek	Purple Haze	360
Florida	Orlando	Sour Diesel	350
		Maui Wowie	350
Georgia	Atlanta	Super Lemon Haze	400
Hawaii	Kona	Jack Herer	400
Indiana	Fort Wayne	Super Silver Haze	360
Maryland	Baltimore	White Widow	400
Massachusetts	Boston	East Coast Sour Diesel	420
Michigan	Lansing	Great White Shark	400
	Traverse City	Strawberry Cough	350
Minnesota	Stillwater	Purple Haze	380
Mississippi	Meridian	OG Kush	375
New Jersey	Jersey City Newark	Ghost Train Haze	400
		Blue Dream	340
New York	Ithaca New York	Amnesia Haze	320
		Strawberry Cough	400
North Carolina	Burlington Raleigh	G13 Cheese	350
		Trainwreck	325
Ohio	Akron Cleveland	C-99	420
		Strawberry Cough	400
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	Sour Diesel	450
Oregon	Portland	Cheese	200
		Super Silver Haze	220
South Carolina	Orangeburg	Chemdog	415
Tennessee	Nashville	White Widow	460
Texas	Houston	Sour Diesel	300
Utah	Salt Lake City	Mango	250
Virginia	Richmond	Granddaddy Purps	380
Washington	Yakima	Girl Scout Cookies	300
		Lavender	250

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

Both the US Price and Kind indices finished November close to their respective previous month's averages. However, the Kind Index closed the month below its year-to-date average once again (-\$10). The Mids Index experienced another jump in average price and finished November \$11 above its YTD average. For the third consecutive month, Kush and Diesel were the two most popular strains submitted to the THMQ.

US Price Index
YTD Average: \$327

Kind Index
YTD Average: \$394



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$275

Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$103



(OG Kush)
"Very smooth - one hit and you instantly feel the body high. Excellent for muscle pain."
Meridian, MS

INTERNATIONAL

Australia	Brisbane	Trainwreck	AU\$320
		Kosher Kush	400
Canada	Edmonton	Power Plant	C\$200
	Montreal	G13	250
Scotland	Glasgow	Cheese	£220

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2 Monkey Around

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monkeyballzcleaner.com

Glass cleaners are generally made from harsh chemicals intended to remove unwanted tars and resins. That's why we're excited about the new Monkey Ballz heady glass cleaner, a biodegradable, eco-friendly version made with all-natural ingredients. Soak your bong or bubbler in this solution and then rinse clean with warm water until there's no more slippery feeling, and you'll always have clean glass.

3 Making Wax

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headshopstop.com

The Liquidizer Herb2Vapor Kit is an all-in-one system with everything necessary to safely, and easily create waxes or oils outdoors. The Liquidizer keeps the user at a safe distance at all times—simply set it down outside, squeeze a clamp and clear the area. When you return 10 minutes later, your unpurged wax is waiting in the beaker. Included are proprietary liquids, an EJvape personal vaporizer and instructions for safely creating hash oil.

4 Pass Clean

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whiterhinoproducts.com

One of the most unfortunate realities of the War on Weed is the fact that many of us are drug-tested because of a possession arrest or in order to get (or keep) our jobs. Luckily, there's Extreme Detox from White Rhino, a unique and effective urine-cleansing formula that works fast and comes in a variety of flavors. Simply drink a bottle, refill with water and drink that, repeat and you'll piss clean when you need to.

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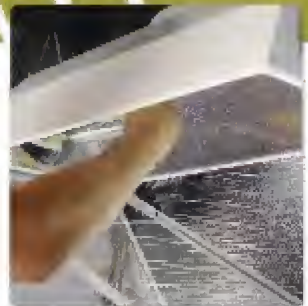
2013 HIGH TIMES STASH AWARD



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The **HIGH TIMES** Growbox Buyer's Guide

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko reviews and rates marijuana growboxes and breaks down the ever-improving technology behind these personal pot-production units.

Bonus: "Closet Growing" by David Bienenstock reveals the ins and outs of cultivating connoisseur-quality cannabis in a space as small as your closet.

Phototron

phototron.com

For over 25 years, Phototrons have been faithfully growing pot for people without much time or space to devote to cultivation. Starting at \$499 for the Original, these affordable and compact units are ideal for small living spaces such as dorms, studios and condos. Phototrons arrive fully assembled and ready to plug in to start growing immediately. Each Phototron comes with nutrients, grow medium, mirrored panels and step-by-step instructions—all you have to provide are the seeds.

The only real drawback here is the amount of growing space. You won't be producing pounds, but you can certainly harvest a personal supply when properly used. The inexpensive and simple Phototron is a perfect introduction to indoor growing for someone who's just starting out and is wary of spending big on something they're not sure they can handle. It has everything you need to begin understanding and mastering the indoor-cultivation process before moving on to larger boxes or growrooms.

Price range: \$

Overall score: 3.0 out of 5





BC Northern Lights

bcnorthernlights.com

Widely considered the Rolls-Royce of the growbox industry, a unit built by BC Northern Lights will certainly cost you, but consider all that you get in return. Each box has a customizable touch-screen control center that powers and adjusts pH level, temperature, humidity, nutrients and CO₂. These solid units are hand-built in British Columbia, Canada, from medical-grade, powder-coated aluminum for a sturdy growbox that rolls easily on casters and locks tight.

BC Northern Lights has won *High Times* STASH Awards (for Significant Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture) eight times. The Bloombox is the ideal all-in-one two-chambered system, with space for keeping mother plants and rooting clones, and a generous flowering area capable of producing pounds of pot. The Producer is built for—you guessed it—production, with 16 plants under dual 400-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs. The Roommate is a stealthy and seamless way to microgrow, while the Mothership keeps mother plants thriving and the Nursery is a virtual clone factory.

Best of all, BC Northern Lights' customer service is impeccable. Call and you'll get a knowledgeable person on the other end to assist you, and you can also live-chat with their helpful staff online. Plus the variety of growbox combos available allows you to customize your growing and institute a perpetual-harvest system that will yield pounds for just pennies.

Price range: \$\$\$\$\$

Overall score: 5.0





SuperCloset

supercloset.com

Since its founding in 2002 in CEO Kip Andersen's garage, SuperCloset has grown to become a leading company in the field of growbox technology. From the affordable and compact SuperBox to the flagship Deluxe, all SuperCloset units feature three separate 110-cfm fans, air-cooled lighting, SuperCool tube reflectors, Lumatek digital and dimmable ballasts, and their own SuperPonic technology for explosive root and plant growth. SuperCloset also offers a line of LED-lit boxes that reduce electrical usage and heat substantially.

SuperCloset has always specialized in minimizing noise and containing odors as well as building great boxes. The units are equipped with Phresh activated-carbon filtration backed by an "Odor Free" guarantee. Add in triple-locking doors, a three-year warranty and lifetime customer support, and it's clear why SuperCloset's customers rate their purchases so highly. There's even financing available to qualified applicants through PayPal's "Bill Me Later" program, which will allow you to pay for your unit over a six-month period (plenty of time for your growbox to pay for itself if used properly). SuperCloset is also a pioneer in the field of vertical-grow technology with its VerticalPonic systems.

Price range: \$\$\$\$

Overall score: 4.5

Hydroponics Group

hydroponicsgroup.com

This more recent contender in the growbox game has quickly made its presence felt by building quality boxes at reasonable prices and with interesting technological advances. Microgrowers will love the Budster or the Bud Buddy, but those thinking bigger should look to the Grow Daddy or the God Father (weighing in at a whopping 170 feet of cubic grow space). Cedar construction keeps the heat and moisture from building up, resulting in less likelihood of mold.

The Grow Daddy measures 57" wide x 30" deep x 78" tall for a full 66 cubic feet of growing space. The planter shelf keeps you from having to bend awkwardly every time you tend to your plants. Best of all, these units are versatile: You can use them with HID lighting or LEDs as well as hydroponic or organic-soil setups. The boxes can also be purchased with optional master controllers that handle CO₂ enrichment and run up to two units at once. The Hydroponics Group offers payment plans as well, so you don't have to lay out all that dough in advance if you prefer not to.

Price range: \$\$\$

Overall score: 4.0





Universal Hydro

cabinetgrow.com

Universal Hydro specializes in growboxes with versatility, showcasing units that work with hydroponic or soil-based systems in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit almost any budget. Its MediCab Micro, at under \$1,000, combines LED and fluorescent lighting to produce buds in a 24" wide x 17" deep x 26" high space. We also love the efficient use of space in the Stacker, a two-tiered unit with LED lighting and your choice of hydro or soil setups.

The boxes use only washable pre-filters, which help to keep out bugs and fungi, as well as duct silencers to keep everything running nice and quiet. Cord-wrap seals and custom light baffles prevent light from leaking in and causing the potential for hermaphrodites (a catastrophe in small spaces, where just a little pollen can lead to a fully-seeded garden). Heavy-duty carbon filters and a powerful blower keep odors from escaping for stealth and peace of mind, and the variety of growbox combos on offer ensures that you'll find exactly what you need.

Price range: \$\$\$

Overall score: 4.0



Full Bloom Hydroponics

fullbloomhydroponics.net

With all of its boxes coming in at under three grand, this Florida-based company provides several options for growers on a budget. But don't mistake these for low-end boxes: All of the units are built by SuperCloset to exacting standards and customized for use with soil instead of the more complicated hydroponic systems they normally ship with.

The Solaris is a midsize unit, while the Sunrunner is intended for bigger production. At \$2,795 plus shipping, we love the Sunrunner's versatility and ease of use: Simply fill the EcoGrow pots with soilless mix and you can grow up to eight 3-foot-tall plants in the 46" wide x 24" deep x 78" high space. A three-year no-hassle warranty and lifetime grow support ensure that you'll harvest big buds time and time again. The locking door and dual carbon filters keep the whole project safe and security-conscious, and the discreet shipping and billing policy maintains stealth and confidentiality.

Price Range: \$\$\$

Overall score: 3.5



Accelerated Technologies

actechwi.com

Founded in 2009, Accelerated Technologies has quickly risen in the field of growbox innovation due to a commitment to quality products and new ideas. Light-tight and whisper-quiet, growboxes from Accelerated, such as the Stanley 336 PRO and the Desa 328 PRO, are handcrafted in the USA and boast LED and fluorescent T5 lighting to keep heat and energy costs to a minimum while bathing plants with the lumens important for great growth rates.

With boxes starting as low as the "Bare" Misty 181 Cabinet at \$1,050, these units are inexpensive yet sturdy. The professional GFI wiring surely exceeds the usual power strip most other companies have attached to the back of their units. One great upgrade offered is the factory-installed Automatic pH Adjusting System, which adds pH Up or Down according to the user's specifications. Many lighting upgrades are also available, and we particularly love the Glide Frame, a custom steel dolly that fits under any of the boxes and allows you to move them with ease.

Price range: \$\$

Overall score: 3.5

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HOW DOES A SUPERCLOSET WORK?

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3. Now, vegetate your plants until they reach the recommended pre-flowering height.

4. Cut clones from these plants and move them back into the SuperCloner in the cloning chamber.

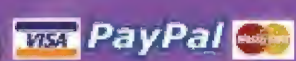
5. Continue growing until your fruits, vegetables, herbs, or flowers have fully matured and are ready to be harvested.

6. Finally, after your harvest, rotate your clones back up into the flowering chamber and repeat!

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Dealzer

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With dozens of different systems to choose from, Dealzer has cornered the market on affordable growboxes with unlimited customer service. It carries a bunch of the other companies mentioned here (some at discounted prices), so you're sure to find what you're looking for at a price that you're comfortable paying. And it sells only the highest-quality boxes tested for stealth optimization, including proper odor control and noise reduction.

Of particular note for someone just getting started is the Cash Crop 2.7, a six-plant box that's only \$420 (with free shipping). Another great unit is the PC Growbox for \$495, which looks just like a personal computer from the outside, yet grows two decent-sized plants within. All Dealzer boxes come with an instructional DVD and free lifetime tech support, and there are many ways to pay for or finance your purchase as well. Plus Dealzer's user-friendly website allows you to compare the various units side by side in order to fully understand your options.

Price range: \$\$

Overall score: 4.0

CLOSET CASE

Why waste valuable space hanging up some shirts when you can grow amazing bud instead? *By David Bienenstock*

In Colorado and Washington State, lawmakers have just approved a complex set of rules for cultivating fully state-licensed marijuana on a commercial scale. And in just a few short months, stores will open to start selling all of that wonderful produce to any adult (21 and over) in those states from anywhere in the world, with nothing more than proof-of-age ID required to score your stash.

So it may be hard to believe, but after a century of living in the shadows, the global cannabis community is finally coming out of our closets. Just don't expect us to stop growing in them!

Someday, hopefully, we'll all be able to cultivate this most wonderful herb in backyards and on front porches across the world—but for the time being, the vast majority of ganja growers need to keep their gardens a secret. And what better place to hide your love away than in a private closet with a locking door that only you have access to?

Though you can't expect to yield nearly as much in a closet as you can in a spare bedroom, a space as small as 1' x 1' x 3'—if well designed and expertly tended—can still produce more than enough pot to keep you and a friend fully supplied, with a little extra to set aside for a rainy day.

So how do you get started? By planning before you plant. The first step is finding a suitable space: something that's big enough and secure enough to suit your needs. Remember, raising your first crop from seed or clone to harvest will take months, so you have to be sure that nobody else will stumble across your garden in that time. Also, look for places adjacent to the grow space where you can position as much of your electrical and water controls as possible. They produce a lot of heat that isn't good for your plants, and whatever space you save in the closet will mean that much more room to grow.

Finally, you must figure out exactly how



Plenty of buds can be grown in a small space.

you're going to assemble and arrange all the necessary lights, fans, filters, containers, grow medium and nutrients required to keep your crop healthy. Don't start buying or borrowing costly equipment until you've got everything worked out, as that can lead to costly missteps. Also, if your total closet area is at least 6 feet tall, you'll be able to section it off, with one-third of the space on top devoted to vegetative growth, mother plants and cloning, and the large space below set aside for flowering. This is the same "perpetual harvest" concept employed in most growrooms, only compacted down to a tiny space.

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Once you've decided on the basics, begin your work by completely clearing out the grow space you've chosen and giving it an incredibly thorough cleaning. Scrub the walls, floor and ceiling with a mild bleach-and-water solution using brand-new mops and sponges. Then cover every visible surface using flat white paint, which will reflect as much light as possible onto your plants and promote vigorous photosynthesis. To prevent bright lights, steady hums and skunky aromas from giving away your garden, add buffers to your fans to keep them from vibrating, plug or cover any light leaks escaping through cracks in the door, and install a carbon filter in your filtration system that cleans the air as it gets sucked out of the closet.

Adding a grow tent to the inside of the closet can also help keep in light, sound and smell, adding another layer of protection without much additional cost or effort.

The Right Light

When it comes to high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting in your closet garden, less is definitely more. So don't listen to that friend who's trying to sell you his old 1,000-watt bulb because "going big is the only way to grow *real* bud": Those 1,000-watters were designed for much larger spaces (where they can be hung farther away from the plants) with significantly more air circulation. Try to cram one into your closet grow, and the incredibly intense light and heat will literally fry your bud.

Instead, outfit your flowering chamber with a more modest 250- to 600-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light, with an even smaller 150- to 250-watt metal halide (MH) light on top for the vegetative plants. Fluorescents and LED lights will also work, with less heat, energy use, noise and headaches, though they may not produce optimal yields. Still, LEDs in particular have come a long way in recent years and offer a great alternative for those concerned about high energy bills or their bud's carbon footprint.

Air Quality

Heat can build up quickly in a small space, with disastrous results for your plants. That's why proper circulation and ventilation are especially important in a closet grow.

You'll need to install both intake fans that draw fresh CO₂-rich air into the closet, and exhaust fans that remove old, spent air once the plants have pulled



what they need from it. Inline fans are small, quiet and simple to attach to a carbon filter, making them ideal choices for closets. For additional CO₂, special bucket kits will boost your growroom's carbon mightily without all the heat, cost, hassle and potential danger of running a CO₂ tank (which would just be overkill in a closet anyway).

Soil vs. Hydro

For beginners, good old high-quality potting soil (or a soilless mix) provides the easiest grow medium to get up and running. Soil gardens are also a lot more forgiving if and when problems arise. Meanwhile, more advanced growers, or those who enjoy a technical challenge, will want to investigate various hydroponic or even aeroponic alternatives that, when properly calibrated and carefully main-

Don't crowd your plants: packing in too many small containers will impede root development and stunt growth.

tained, can offer yields superior to soil.

No matter how you choose to grow, however, don't crowd your plants: packing in too many small containers will impede root development and stunt growth. A good rule of thumb is to use at least a 1-gallon container for vegetative plants and then transplant them into one that's got 1 gallon of grow space for every week of vegetative growth when you move them into the flowering chamber.

Also, you'll need to protect everything below your garden by sealing up the bottom 6 inches (or more) of the closet and making sure it's watertight. Otherwise, leaks can escape underneath the door and puddle up outside—or even drip down to the floor below. Use a staple gun to cover everything with thick plastic, then add rubber floor mats that can be easily removed, cleaned and replaced between harvests.

From top: LED lights reduce electricity cost and give off little heat; fans keep air from becoming stagnant; soil is more forgiving than hydroponics for closet growers.

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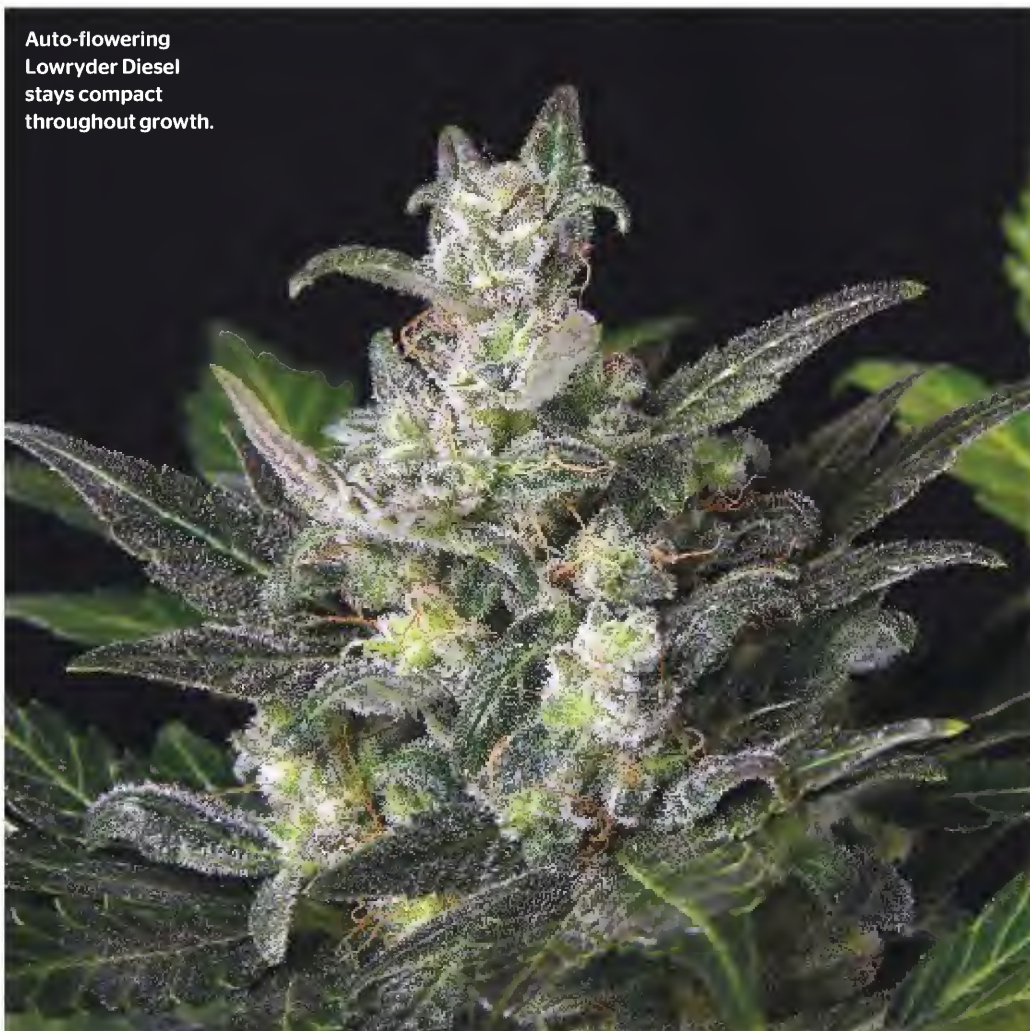
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Your Main Strain

With any ganja garden, when selecting a strain to grow, your primary concern should be sourcing some top-grade genetics that you really want to smoke. After all, if you're going to go through all the time, expense and effort, harvesting ounce after ounce of your favorite variety should be the reward. Starting from seed brings extra vitality, but it's also a lot more work to sex your plants, and the time that takes slows down your harvest cycle. Using clones instead ensures that all of your plants are female and eliminates up to a week of vegetative-growth time.

In a closet grow, you'll also want to focus on strains bred to do well indoors—especially those that grow short and stocky, with quick flowering times. This mostly means finding a bushy *indica* rather than a stretchy *sativa*. There are also certain auto-flowering strains that have been specially bred to thrive in a closet, such as Lowryder, Moby Dick and Roadrunner. And no matter which strain you decide on, always remember that the level of thought and care you put into the garden will determine success a lot more than the kind of kind you choose to grow! 🌿

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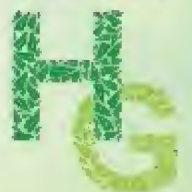
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Kief in the Rif: A Week



Welcome to Morocco's Rif mountains, where farmers have been cultivating cannabis for hashish production for generations. Reporter Daniel Kelly spends a week during Ramadan in this legendary area, observing the locals fasting, feasting, gambling and smoking kief.

*Story and photos
by Daniel Kelly*

The last strands of smoke hang in the air. The air itself is hot and still, our movements lethargic as the man next to me slowly exhales. He leans back, a distant smile playing across his face, before abruptly knocking the gray embers from his pipe and onto the floor. They aren't much for ashtrays, these Moroccans.

It's 2:11 a.m. in the dusty outpost of Beni Ahmed. The last game of bingo draws close to completion, and Mohammad curses under his breath: Hemar! It's been a long evening spent in the dusky confines of the cafe, and luck has been elusive for my young host.

He stands with an exasperated grunt, tipping the stone bingo markers to the floor. "Come, we go now," he says. The red lights on the ATM clock outside still read 32°C—almost 90°F—and we wander down the empty street, unsteady from boredom and kief.

I had arrived two days earlier in a shared taxi. The daytime temp was over 110°F, and the old Mercedes

struggled to keep up under the hellish heat. We stopped at a roadside well, and the other passengers drenched their faces, rinsing their mouths with water before carefully spitting it out—for Muslims, even water is forbidden during the fasting of Ramadan. While the driver attempted to placate the engine's steaming rattle, one of my fellow passengers gestured to the plots of green marking the landscape below. "Mirar, amigo. Cannabis, sí?"

Sí indeed, for we were deep in the Rif Mountains, an hour or so from Chefchaouen and surrounded by arid terrain primed to produce the fields of marijuana we could see in the distance. It is this same marijuana that will later find its way across the Strait of Gibraltar and up into Europe, condensed and smuggled as hash, destined for sale on Parisian street corners and in Dutch coffeeshops. I nodded back at our self-nominated tour guide; it's always nice to meet a local keen to share his appreciation for the region's top export.

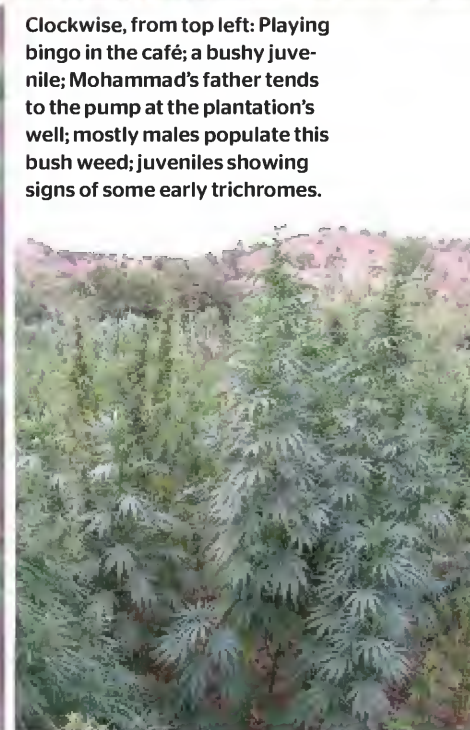
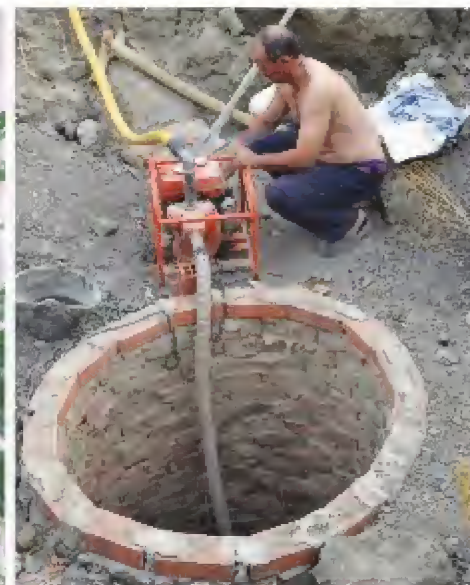
One of many
backyard crops
in Beni Ahmed



with Moroccan Weed Farmers



A small plantation
sits just off the
main road.



Clockwise, from top left: Playing bingo in the café; a bushy juvenile; Mohammad's father tends to the pump at the plantation's well; mostly males populate this bush weed; juveniles showing signs of some early trichomes.

We pulled back out onto the road, and I steadied myself for another round of real-life chicken, metal carrion competing for the single lane of asphalt. Our eventual arrival, miraculous as it seemed to me, was all in a day's work—just another instance of avoided breakdowns and blowouts—and we were unceremoniously ejected from the car and, soon thereafter, into the hands of our couch-surfing host, a polite young man named Mohammad.

It was a short walk to his house, where we dropped our bags and, using Mohammad as an interpreter, tried to explain to his mother that we would like to wait until Iftar to break the day's fast with them as a family. Our good intentions were well received and promptly ignored, as that renowned Moroccan hospitality was rolled out in the form of delicious tomato and onion relish, fresh orange juice, and bread with a cardamom-and-cumin-spiced sauce. But

Mohammad was hungry and removed himself while we ate, explaining that although he's a good Muslim, it is much easier to resist temptation when it remains unseen.

After lunch, Mohammad told us a little bit about life in the village. Given the area's reputation, it wasn't overly surprising when he revealed that he grows weed. Like his father and his father's father before him, his living comes from tending the crops that are barely hidden from the main road and its prying eyes.

Following this revelation, Mohammad took us down to the local outpost of the Gendarme Royale (the national police) for "registration." I was naturally suspicious and, unsure what we were there for, gave fake names for my parents, then tried not laugh as the cop stutteringly misspelled them. This bizarre bit of admin out of the way, we were free to go: Mohammad explained that it was

just a precaution that allowed the police to cover their ample backsides should something happen to us. I couldn't resist the obvious next question and asked if they knew about the weed. Mohammad laughed: "They asked if you were here to smoke when we showed up."

This seemed to me an all-too-familiar case of corruption, the cops just one more group of officials contentedly growing fat on milk from the cash cow of illegality. That evening, sipping mint tea in a small café, Mohammad laid out the drug's ubiquity in the country. His grandfather sat behind us with some of the local bigwigs, and Mohammad discreetly pointed out the boss of the local area's operation—a large, balding heavy-set man with sunken eyes that conveyed an absence of amusement. With the cops' self-protective registration process still looming large in my memory, I was only brave enough to sneak a glance at him.





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Inspecting the young plants.

Mohammad, it turned out, was very proud of his grandfather, whose service fighting the Algerians in the northern deserts had earned him some sort of immunity from searches and checkpoints. The details were vague, but we learned that this gave him the liberty to be a cash mule and exceed the status of mere farmer. Mohammad waxed lyrical about the extravagances to be found at the top of the weed chain here: imported Hummers with no papers, flashy watches, and the extraordinary tale of

how the local boss paid to sleep with an unnamed Moroccan pop star.

Whatever the degree of truth to his tales, it was clear that the bosses were powerful men, and that the myths of wealth have lost none of their allure. That came as no surprise, since Beni Ahmed is a simple town: The roads are made of dirt, and the shops are few and far between. There are no extravagances to be found among the olive trees, concrete block houses and run-down cars. It would seem that whatever wealth weed

brings into the area is slow to trickle down.

Marijuana is illegal in Morocco, and occasional government crackdowns can have dire consequences for a community so dependent on its cultivation. Mohammad told us about the government-sanctioned strikes in 2010, when Air Force helicopters selectively ruined crops with pesticides.

“This was a bad year, man, very bad year,” Mohammad said, then shrugged in explanation: “No money.”

Despite this ever-looming threat, the community persists in growing, and as a result, weed—all of fairly average quality—is everywhere. Mohammad told us that it’s the only way to make money in these parts, and the large plastic bag behind the door in his house seemed to confirm his claims of multiple plantations. But when I finally got to see one, the crop was disappointing. While respectable in size, the plants were more bush than bud, with scores of males happily releasing their pollen among the females. The final product is your typical bush weed, nearly all stems and sticks. I hadn’t the heart (or the nerve) to tell Mohammad how much better his crop would be if he adopted more modern farming methods.

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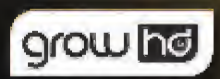
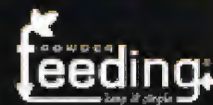
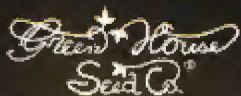


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Bundles of cannabis dry on the roof of Mohammad's shed.

In the end, though, it doesn't seem to matter much: Most of these plants will be turned into the infamous hard brown hash you find in Europe. The rest are cut up—seeds, stems and all—into the locals' narcotic of choice, the unbelievably harsh kief. It is this kief, smoked through a long, thin pipe with a clay cone, that kept me occupied the last three nights while Mohammad threw good dirham after bad in the crowded coffeehouse.

There are no women present, and

in their absence the men display a surprisingly homoerotic level of affection, hanging off each other's shoulders and strategizing about the nonexistent nuances of bingo. I sit, removed from the proceedings in more ways than one, left to play mental bingo over what they might actually be saying.

The first night at the tables had been generally positive. I made a stuttering attempt to learn numbers in Arabic and made friends over the nonverbal ritual

of kief. The practiced hands laughed as I coughed; they also smiled at my waxed mustache, gesturing like they were racing a motorbike. I shook hands with countless strangers keen to meet the newest attraction in the village and drank mint tea till my teeth were saturated with the sugar.

By the third night, though, my novelty had well and truly worn off. I was now just part of the background, forced to cultivate patience amidst the din of shouted Arabic and clattering cups. In a situation like this, especially when your host turns out to be hopelessly addicted to gambling, you are more hostage than guest: There is little you can do but wait until his time or his money runs out.

We arrive back at Mohammad's modest family home just in time for Suhoor, the final meal before daylight and its associated fasting. As we lie on the rooftop terrace preparing to sleep, I ask Mohammad if he can imagine a life without weed. After all, he is the only English speaker in town—a fact he's very proud of—and doesn't seem to smoke kief himself. Would there not be other opportunities for him?

Again, Mohammad laughs. In Beni Ahmed, a life without weed is inconceivable. ✨

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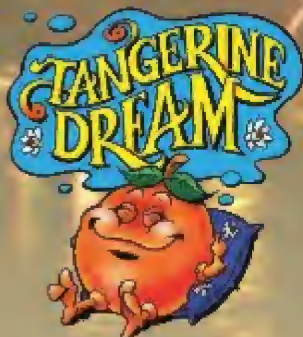
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1-foot length of 3/4" hose (Hydrofarm or similar)
3/4" PVC screw fitting with 3/4" hose connection
3/4" PVC pipe coupling (plus 2" length of PVC pipe, if desired)
Reflective silver Mylar roll or sheets
Soil
Soil amendments and clone nutrients
Molasses (the secret ingredient!)
Clone tray and clear dome

1" Oasis cubes
Eight 1-gallon polyester-felt vegetable bags
Spray bottle

Ventilation

Two 8" hoses, length as needed
Two 8" inline fans and hose-mounting hardware
Carbon odor filter and hose connections

Construction and Lighting

4' x 8' plywood sheet, cut as needed
Two 8-foot 2" x 4" (1.5" x 3.5") boards, cut as needed
1" x 2" (3/4" x 1.5") or similar light wood lengths to construct drying rack
Wood or sheetrock screws
Chain (and S-hooks) or nylon cord (and pulleys)
Chain/cord hooks, plaster or sheetrock anchors and screws (to hang light

fixtures to ceiling or wall brackets)
4-foot fluorescent lamp fixtures (to hold six to 10 bulbs overhead and two below facing upward; each fixture can span two eight-plant trays)
Phillips 4-foot, 34-watt T12 bulbs, mixed warm-white and cool-white
Two electric timers (for pump and lights)
Power strips and extension cords as needed
Thumbtacks or tape (to hang Mylar on wall or light fixture)

Tools

Drill with Phillips screwdriver bit and 3/4" bit
Wood saw, manual or electric
Pliers or Channellock
Screwdriver
Scissors
Tape measure and pencil

If you've ever thought you don't have enough time or space to grow, think again. In today's economically stressed America, people are working longer and harder than ever to make ends meet, but you can still grow great weed, relax your mind and supplement your income—and fit it all into your busy schedule. This inexpensive and simple system, created by the King of Queens, demonstrates just how easy it can be to grow your own magnificent herb in just minutes a day, and harvest up to three crops a year.

Busy People

automatic watering. *Story & photos by J. Flava*

Green Special flowers grow big and dense under fluoros.



ebb-and-flow soil system that allows him to maintain a small horticultural operation with the least amount of time and effort, while still growing happy plants in their natural medium.

A system like this can be constructed in a few days using readily available materials: off-the-shelf containers, fluorescent lights and fixtures, fans, ventilation hose and wood from Home Depot; pumps, PVC pipe fittings, flexible hose, felt grow bags, clone-start trays, Mylar sheeting, soil, soil amendments and nutrients from the local hydroponics store. And it can be maintained and operated daily with the flick of a switch or by using an automatic timer.

The basic idea here is that water is pumped from a reservoir on the floor into an elevated plant tray for a given period of time each day, and the nutrified solution recirculates by draining directly into the reservoir below. Essentially an ebb-and-flow table of the kind normally used for hydroponic setups, the twist here is that the porous polyester-felt bags enable soil to be used as the plant and nutrient medium, which many agree produces superior cannabis.

The system is infinitely expandable, and you can start with just one or two eight-plant trays and add more as desired. The King has all the tray pumps plugged into a power strip connected to a timer, so that they all turn on at the same time to irrigate the trays. The ventilation intake and exhaust fans run continuously, creating a gentle breeze. Besides providing CO₂ replenishment and air replacement, the moving air sways the plants' stems, which helps to strengthen them as they grow heavy buds. The lights are also plugged into a timer, which means the system can be fully automated for several weeks if desired, although the King keeps a watchful eye on his plants and often turns the pumps on manually. (And on the rare occasions when whiteflies or spider mites have reared their tiny heads, the King swears by a foliar spray of neem oil and Dr. Bronner's Peppermint Soap dissolved in water to eradicate the invaders.)

Of course, besides great nutrients, great genetics are essential for a grow's success. The King is primarily growing three strains: an *indica* named Crash, and two of the King's own crossbreeds, Midnight Special and Green Amber, as well as a few related strains like Green Special and Midnight Purple. The plants are usually started from clones taken from several mother plants, although good seeds are planted when available.

In New York City, in a seemingly ordinary two-bedroom apartment in the borough of Queens, magic is occurring. Buds dripping with crystals fill a hidden 12' x 5' room holding 60 plants in soil, contained in breathable 1-gallon felt bags that sit in flood trays above water reservoirs. With four kids to take care of, the King works long hours to support his family, and so he's devised this efficient

Water pumps are essential to feed plants with nutrient solution automatically.



CONSTRUCTION

The plastic flood trays used for this project happen to be 40" x 20" x 7" Sterilite 67-quart Wheeled Underbed Boxes, but any large and flat plastic containers of a similar nature will do. (The mothers are also contained in these trays, under a bank of eight fluorescent bulbs located below the King's sleeping loft—although this may not exactly be the “underbed” purpose Sterilite had in mind.)

Since each tray holds eight 1-gallon felt bags and is suspended above its own large nutrient reservoir, the best bet is to construct a simple wooden structure of plywood and two-by-fours to elevate the trays a few inches above the reservoir containers, about 2 feet off the ground. (Metal wire shelving will also work well.) If you don't want to cut the wood yourself, many lumber suppliers will cut the wood to your specifications for a small charge. Building the structure along a wall is advisable for extra stability and bracing, and this facilitates hanging the reflective silver Mylar. Keep in mind that water and soil are very heavy, so while the structure you create doesn't have to be refined or pretty, it *does* need to be sturdy.

To prepare each tray for the reservoir feed pipe and the overflow drain pipe, measure and drill two clean 3/4-inch holes in the bottom, at least 1 foot apart lengthwise or even at opposite ends of the tray, taking care not to crack the plastic. If you're placing the tray on a piece of plywood above the reservoir, measure and drill matching holes in the wood to allow the 3/4-inch pipes to pass through; you should drill larger holes in the wood than those in the tray, so that the pipe alignment needn't be super precise.

PUMP & FITTINGS

Attach the feed and overflow drain-pipe fittings from below to the holes in the elevated tray, ensuring that the screw fittings and rubber grommets create tight seals. The feed-pipe fitting should be flush with the bottom of the tray, as the water will drain back into the reservoir through the attached feed hose when the pump is turned off. The overflow drain-pipe fitting, which drains the water back into the reservoir while the pump is running, should protrude into the tray about 1 inch or so above the tray bottom. The King inserts a 2-inch length of removable 3/4-inch pipe into the drainpipe's 3/4-inch coupling fitting that allows him to easily raise or lower the height of the drainpipe, depending on the water needs of the plants.

Next, connect the 1/2-inch pump hose



from the reservoir to the feed-pipe fitting; trim the pipe if needed. (The King is using a standard Hydrofarm pipe fitting that accepts a 1/2-inch hose and screws into a 3/4-inch hole, with a useful debris trap on top.) Then connect the 3/4-inch overflow drain hose below the tray to the drain fitting. The drain hose can be trimmed as needed so the outflow remains above the water line in the reservoir, in this case a 29" x 20" x 15.5" GSC 27-gallon Strong Box plastic tub. For each reservoir and tray, the King uses an Aquarium Systems Mini-Jet 404 Pump (about \$25) with standard 1/2-inch fittings, but any similar hydroponic pump will do.

LIGHTING

Inexpensive and low-heat fluorescent lights are used here not just for clones, but also for vegetation and flowering, with six or eight mixed warm-white and cool-white Philips 4-foot, 34-watt T12 bulbs placed in fixtures hung right above the plants. Importantly, two more bulbs are placed in an upward-facing fixture between the two rows of plants in each tray, to supply that extra light boost that *really* makes a difference when growing with low-wattage fluorescents. Each 4-foot bulb spans slightly more than the 40-inch dimension of the trays used here, which is ideal.

Compared to plants produced under high-wattage lamps, plants grown under fluorescents will not grow as big or tall and will not produce as much—but, the King is quick to note, this doesn't affect the actual quality of the product, and “the end result is the same” as herb produced under brighter and hotter lamps. Fluorescents will also keep your electricity bill under control and in a more ordinary usage range, and they produce much less heat—and therefore are much less likely to attract attention.

Suspend the light fixtures above the plants using nylon cord, rope or chain attached to the ceiling or strong wall brackets. If you go the extra mile with a pulley system for the cord (or simple S-hooks for the chains), you will be able to raise or lower these low-heat lights easily as the plants grow, ensuring that they are always just above the buds. Also, silver Mylar on one side of the trays—here pinned on the adjoining wall—significantly enhances light dispersion and efficiency.

From top: Nutrient solution periodically floods the tables to feed plant roots; the overflow pipe and drain hose pipe and tubing unassembled side by side; the overflow drain fitting ensures that the tables don't flood onto the floor.

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VENTILATION

The King uses 8-inch flexible ventilation hose for both the air intake and exhaust, with an 8-inch inline fan discreetly pulling air from behind a window screen through a hose into the growroom, and another fan at the other end of the room pulling growroom air into a hose and through an inline carbon filter, before cleverly exhausting the cleaned air into the apartment.

“If you exhaust directly to a pipe outside, especially in a rural area, then if helicopters come with heat detectors, they will detect a red-hot spot where the air comes out of the pipe,” the King explains. “But if you exhaust the air into the house, it is evenly dispersed and there’s no hot spot to detect. It’s also a benefit because it keeps the adjacent rooms warmer. You also have more control of the smell,” he adds. “What happens if your carbon-filter system is leaking and reeking? You’ll be able to detect the problem smell in the home, instead of it just going directly outside to the street and attracting attention.”



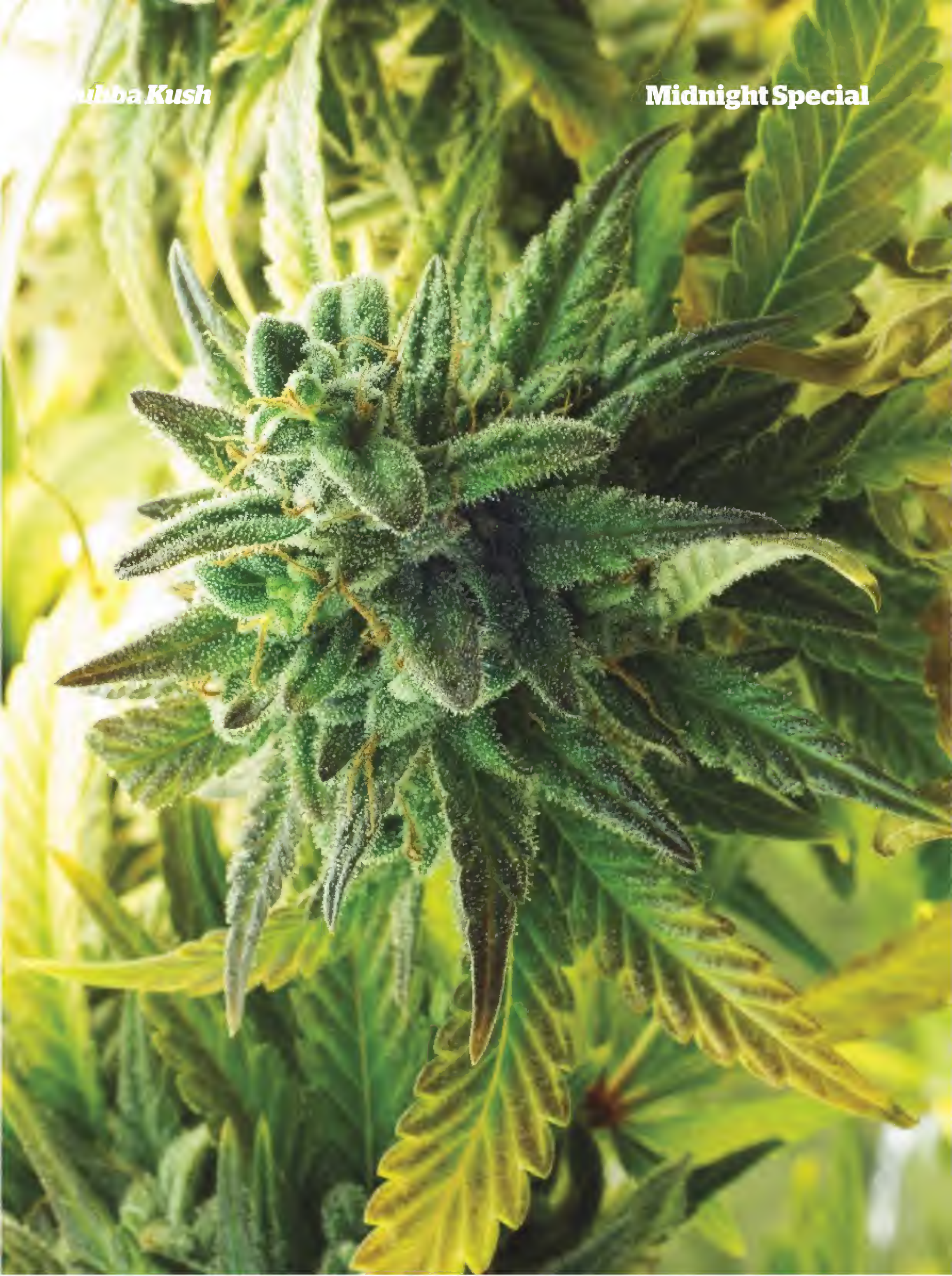
Vegetative growth is brisk when heat is not a factor.

EASY CLONE

Now the real fun begins. To start the growing cycle, clones are dipped in General Organics Bioroot solution to wet the stems, then dipped in Bontone Rooting Powder before insertion into 1-inch Oasis cubes presoaked with the Bioroot solution. The cubes and clones are then placed in a tray containing the solution (added to a depth of 1/2 inch) and covered by a clear dome under four 4-foot fluorescent tubes. After nine days, the solution is dumped, the cubes are rinsed, and the solution is replaced. By the 14th day, the roots have popped out of the cubes, and the clones then are transplanted into Aurora 1-gallon polyester-felt soil bags and placed on the trays to vegetate. “The felt bags aerate the roots very well—much better than plastic pots,” states the King. “The tips of the roots come out of the bags, and the roots don’t grow in a circle like in plastic.”

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Midnight Special





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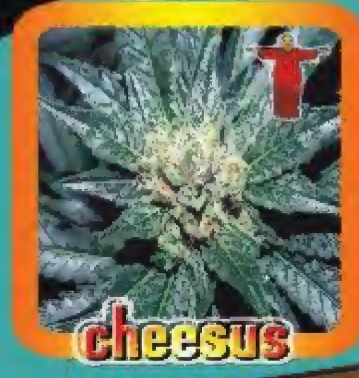
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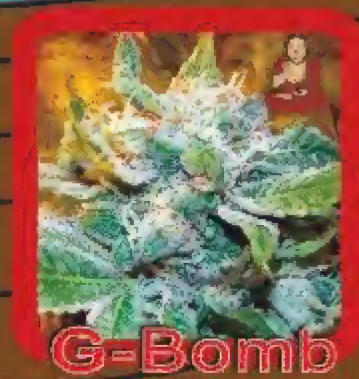
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VEGETATION & FLOWERING

After the clones have been planted in good soil in the felt bags, the King's three-week vegetation cycle begins, with the fluorescent-light array on for 18 hours a day. He generally uses four soil amendments: organic bone meal, organic Espoma Rose-tone 4-3-2, bat guano and seabird guano. Each reservoir is filled with about 20 gallons of plain water, which then picks up and recirculates the fertilizing nutrients in the soil as the trays are flooded and drained. For all the amendments used, the King generally follows the mix amounts indicated on the product labels.

During the vegetative cycle, when the plants are very young, the King turns the pumps on manually to flood the trays only every few days. But when the flowering stage begins, the pumps are turned on—manually or with the timer—nearly every day for about an hour. The soil draws the moisture to the roots, and it should be allowed to dry out somewhat between waterings, a process accelerated by the warmth of the lights. (It is important not to overwater, which can cause root rot and damage the plants.) The plants will grow slowly under the fluorescents, but they will grow steadily as long as there are a total of at least eight bulbs—and 10 or more can

The King's herb is phenomenally potent, sweet-smelling and absolutely covered in crystals.

be used, along with Mylar sheeting.

To switch the plants to the flowering stage, the King changes the photoperiod to 10 hours of light and 14 hours of darkness for eight or nine weeks, after which the buds are harvested and pinned on a drying rack to cure. Why not the standard 12 hours on/12 hours off? "Each day, you save two hours of electricity," the King notes matter-of-factly, "and that adds up."

He also limits his plants to a height of 18 inches, tying down tall stalks and buds with string to steer them sideways. Fan leaves are diligently pulled off the plants as they turn yellow in the later stages of growth, to maximize the plants' energy for bud production. The lights always remain just above the tops of the plants, which is especially important for this type of low-wattage system, as light intensity decreases very quickly with distance. About every two weeks, the nutrient-imbued water in the reservoirs is dumped and replaced with fresh water, and the tubs are cleaned each time. During flowering, the King sprays the

plants every few days with a foliar solution of water and Maxicrop, and around the sixth week of flowering, he makes a nutrient tea using the soil amendments and waters the plants by hand.

THE KING'S SECRET

For the last two weeks of flowering, however, the King turns off the pumps and exclusively waters the plants by hand every few days "as needed" from 5-gallon buckets into which he mixes a 1/2 cup of his secret ingredient: molasses. "It gives the herb more body, makes it more sticky, makes it crystallize more, makes it swell up," he confides. "Molasses is *alive*. It works to break down the amendments in the soil. It makes the herb sweeter."

This certainly appears to be the case, as the King's herb is phenomenally potent, sweet-smelling and absolutely covered in crystals. All of which goes to show that advanced cannabis knowledge, time-saving watering techniques and humble fluorescent lighting are indeed a winning grow formula. ✨



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Cannabis Artifacts

Peruse a rare stash of cannabis artifacts collected by one of the nation's preeminent marijuana scholars, Michael Aldrich, and discover how the medicinal and spiritual use of ganja is part of our shared human history.

By Elise McDonough. Photos by Lochfoot

This standing fish pipe from Cameroon is made of brass, with a loop attached to the stem for easy carrying.

Michael Aldrich literally has a PhD in pot. The author of the first doctoral dissertation on cannabis in the United States, *Marijuana Myths and Folklore* (SUNY Buffalo, 1970), and a tireless researcher and advocate, Aldrich has earned the nickname “Dr. Dope.” Fascinated by the righteous herb’s history of religious and medical use since he got “turned on” in 1963, the young student began collecting newspaper clippings, old books and articles—anything that catalogued the positive attributes of cannabis. His parents were supportive of his scholarly habit, with his father even bringing back pipes and bongs from his safaris in Africa.

Michael founded the first student LeMar (Legalize Marijuana) organization in 1967 at SUNY Buffalo, was the editor of the first pot-themed publication, *The Marijuana Review*, from 1968 to 1973, and co-founded Amorphia, the first cannabis cooperative, in 1971. Always an advocate of legalization, Michael was an organizer for the 1972 California Marijuana Initiative, and he believes that cannabis spirituality will continue to thrive despite government oppression. “The use of cannabis to heal both body and soul traces back to the oldest religious texts in the world,” Aldrich says, “and it continues steadily up to modern times in a variety of cultural contexts.”

Today, Michael and his wife Michelle have amassed one of the most extensive cannabis archives in the US, with more than 300 boxes of books and papers in storage, and precious artifacts on display in their small San Francisco apartment. Their bookshelves are lined with the ancient lore of psychedelic wisdom, and a handsome wood-and-glass case houses their “antique headshop,” a collection of rare old pipes, bongs, papers and other accoutrements of the classic stoner lifestyle. Their African pipe collection is also considered one of the best in the nation—which is why we were so thrilled when the Aldriches gave *High Times* a close-up look at their stash of precious historical paraphernalia and artifacts, and chose some of the most interesting specimens to share. “I got the first pipe in ’69 from Botswana, and then started with the bongs in ’71,” Aldrich recalls. “We’ve been talking for many years about opening a museum.”

Called *dagga* in Africa, cannabis is regarded as a tool for spiritual insight, and has a long history of shamanic use among the continent’s various tribes. Some of the first bongs were developed in Africa, with archaeological digs in Ethiopia uncovering ceramic water pipes dating back to AD 1320. Other tribes fashioned water pipes from gourds with detachable stone bowls. So, the next time you’re puffing on a Sherlock or hitting your prized Roor bong, remember the irie ancestors who came before you and dedicate your session in their honor. You just might have a revelation of your own!





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INFANTS RELIEF

This bottle of tincture from the Victor Remedies Company dates back to the 1880s, when patent medicines containing not only cannabis but opium and cocaine were all the rage. This concoction of cannabis and chloroform was recommended “for all looseness of bowels” and for teething children. In the advertisement for Victor Infants Relief, parents are assured that “especially during the teething period with its distressing and often fatal effects does Victor Infants Relief prove a boon and a blessing.” A printed testimonial from one satisfied customer declares that “instead of one bottle of Infants Relief, I suppose we used one dozen for our little girl. It is pleasant to taste and does the work.”

PARKE, DAVIS CONTAINER

This container from Parke, Davis dates back to 1879 and would have sat on a druggist’s shelf, waiting to be refilled with *Cannabis sativa* direct from the pharmaceutical company. A label on the back of the container helpfully explains that “Herbs and other Botanic drugs will keep perfectly fresh and intact for a much longer period of time in these containers than in open drawers.” Parke, Davis goes on to say: “The quality is absolutely the best which is produced” and “Our direct connections enable us to have especial care bestowed upon the collection and preservation of drugs intended for our use.” The legal drug dealer (once the oldest and biggest drug company in the US, now a part of Pfizer) also assures the pharmacist that “Every package is full weight,” just in case the middleman was worried about getting shorted by his source.



This small, long metal pipe has a carved stone bowl with a decoration of a lotus flower and stamped metal decorations on the stem.



This Egyptian bone pipe has a stem made of cow bone with a mouthpiece topped by a scarab beetle. Anubis, god of the underworld, is perched on the edge of the bowl near the Eye of Ra.



This happy smiling face with stoned squinty eyes is a pipe carved from wood with an ivory mouthpiece and bowl. Hand carved in Durban, South Africa by the Kikuyu tribe.



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The bowl of this traditional Zulu *dagga* pipe is a cow horn, with a wooden stem decorated with bright beadwork and a ceramic mouthpiece, from the Eshowe area of Zululand, South Africa.



This gourd bong is also from Tanzania, probably originating from the Kikuyu tribe. The gourd has a wooden stem attached to it with sinewy leather, and a detachable, reversible carved stone bowl that is held to the pipe with twine. The user could turn the bowl over and pack tobacco into one side and cannabis into the other. A hole is punched into the back of the gourd's stem for inhalation.

This gourd "gogo pipe" from Tanzania has a detachable stone bowl affixed by a leather strip, decorated with a Mirinda brand bottle cap.



Many of the early bongs imported into the US were made of bamboo; this one was hand-crafted in India.



This distinctive brass pipe from Cameroon has a loop to attach to a belt, and a fanciful design with a large bowl atop the head of an elephant.



The Bobo tribe created this horned animal pipe, a "very sacred pipe," according to Aldrich, "from Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) in West Africa, and traditionally passed from father to son as part of an initiation into manhood." The metal bowl is attached to a wooden stem wrapped in snakeskin, with ten animal heads on metal rings encircling it. The alternating animals are a roan antelope (a sacred animal with spiral horns), and a northern red buffalo with curved horns.

A simple Nigerian wooden pipe with metal bands and stone bowl with a design of punched holes at the front of the bowl making a V shape.

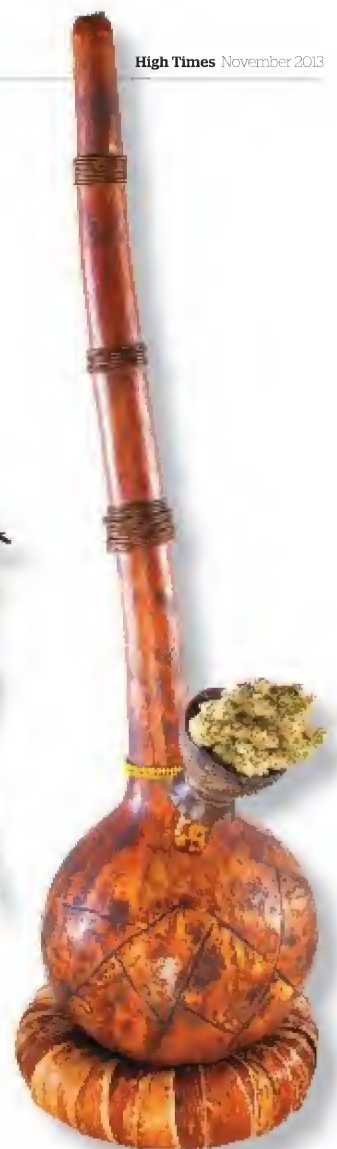


This fertility goddess bong would have had a carved stone bowl that fit into the protuberance coming out of the bottom gourd. The user inhales from the top of the head of the stone fertility goddess. Tribal origin unknown.

This large standing pipe from Cameroon has been nicknamed the "rock band" by Aldrich, since the bowl is surrounded by three figures holding instruments. Beautifully designed, the bottom has the motif of an elephant's head with its trunk curled around the bottom to form a handle, and the tusks form a tripod base.



This Zulu tribal bong is made from a large gourd, with a generous-sized detachable carved stone bowl. The gourd rests on a rattan "bong cozy." This artifact was sent from the Carlton hotel in Johannesburg in 1969 by Aldrich's father. 🌿





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Cannabis: Evolution

On the origin of marijuana usage in South Asia.

By Robert C. Clarke
and Mark D. Merlin

Introduction

Cannabis is one of the world's most useful plant groups. It has been a part of human culture for thousands of years beginning in Eurasia, and today it is associated with people in almost all parts of the world. Although cannabis is most often thought of as a "drug plant," its use for a huge number of other purposes, including fiber, food, paper, medicine and so on, is almost unparalleled, ranking it with the coconut palm and bamboos. Cannabis is truly a remarkable genus of multipurpose plants with extensive and complicated histories. A fully comprehensive, documented history of cannabis's evolution and its widespread, diverse use by humans has never been published.

Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary exploration of the natural origins and evolution of this famous plant, highlighting its historic role in the development of human societies. Cannabis has long been prized for the strong and durable fiber in its stalks, its edible and oil-rich seeds, and the psychoactive and medicinal compounds produced by its female flowers. The culturally valuable and often irreplaceable goods derived from cannabis deeply influenced the commercial, medical, ritual and religious practices of human cultures throughout the ages, and desire for these commodities directed the evolution of the plant toward its contemporary varieties.

Following is an excerpt from Chapter 7, which explores historical aspects of psychoactive cannabis use for ritual and recreation. This section describes cannabis drug preparations from South Asia, which were all traditionally made



from *C. indica* ssp. *indica* narrow-leaf drug (or NLD) biotypes growing naturally within the region for thousands of years. NLD cultivars were disseminated through early farming cultures across southern Eurasia from Southeast Asia to Anatolia, and by the nineteenth century had spread to the New World. Before the 1970s discovery of *C. indica* ssp.

afghanica broad-leaf drug (or BLD) hashish cultivars popularly known as *indicas*, all recreational and medicinal cannabis consumed worldwide was derived from NLD cultivars originating in South Asia called *sativas*. Twenty-first-century taxonomic research sheds light on the evolutionary relationships of the various cannabis biotypes.

n and Ethnobotany

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Indian NLD marijuana (*ganja*) was grown on large farms in Bengal, India, and was also the source of *Cannabis indica* medical preparations.



South Asian Psychoactive Cannabis Products

*The hemp with which we used to hang
Our prison pets, you felon gang,
In Eastern climes produces Bang,
Esteemed a drug divine.*

—Lord Neaves (1800-1876)

Bhang and *ganja* have long been used in South Asia, largely in ritual contexts. The larger leaves of the female plant, as well as the male plant, contain relatively less and sometimes only meager amounts of THC compared to the female flowers and therefore provide a much milder preparation, which is usually swallowed. In the Persian and Hindi languages, this

grade of drug is called *bhang*, named after the cannabis plant itself, but it is not commonly consumed in the West. *Bhang* is taken orally in the form of small balls or mixed with water or milk in a beverage also known as *bhang*. This drink is regularly used by the lower classes in India and by a wider cross-section of the population on certain religious holidays. Jean Baptiste Tavernier, a seventeenth-century French traveler to the Near East, offered the following account of Persian *bhang* drinking: “The Persians have another kind of brew, very bitter and disagreeable to the taste. They call this *bengue* [*bhang*]. It is prepared from hemp leaves with some other drug added which makes it stronger than any other brew they use. Those using this get strangely mad. It is forbidden by law, whereas other beverages are allowed. It would be difficult to find many in Persia who were not given to some of these beverages without which apparently they would find no pleasure in life.”

In more recent times, *bhang* is most often consumed either ritually or recreationally by blending it into a beverage. Today it is imbibed by both local people and foreign travelers. In a simple preparation, cannabis leaves are pounded, mixed with sugar and black pepper, blended with a little water, and added to milk, thin yoghurt (*lassi*) or milk tea. More complex formulations may include ground nuts, spices and aromatic resins. Cannabis is also added to various foods as a way of achieving altered consciousness. *Halva* (a sweet confection, but not to be confused with Middle Eastern *halva* made from sesame seeds) is made by first boiling *bhang* in jaggery (unrefined sugar) syrup. This hot liquid is then filtered to remove most of the plant matter and mixed with flour and clarified butter. Powdered cannabis leaves are also added to curries. *Bhang* dumplings (*pakor*s) are made by mixing fresh or dried cannabis leaves with chickpea flour, to which water and the desired condiments (e.g. salt, black or red pepper, ginger, cumin seeds) are added. Small balls of the dough are fried in mustard oil and eaten as snacks. “On festive occasions, these *pakor*s are sought with great felicity” (Sharma 1977a).

The Irishman William Brooke

Modern hybrid NLD × BLD *sinsemilla* cultivars have been bred for high yields and exotic appearance, and consequently they barely resemble the land races from which they originated.



O'Shaughnessy (1808-1889) is credited with introducing cannabis medicines to the West. During his time in India with the British Bengal Army, he was posted in many locations and befriended a number of Ayurvedic and Islamic physicians, some of whom interested him in the value of cannabis as a therapeutic drug. O'Shaughnessy described in detail a simple and highly effective protocol for extracting the active ingredients of cannabis with clarified butter fat (*ghee*), the process having been "repeatedly performed" by "Ameer, the proprietor of a celebrated place of resort for hemp devotees in Calcutta," who was considered to be the premier "artist" in his profession at the time. According to O'Shaughnessy's account, the fat-soluble THC was extracted into a relatively small proportion of *ghee*, and then any water-soluble contaminants were removed, so the concentrated extract could have been extremely potent. Confections called *majoon* were made from this extract, and this sweet confectionary use can be compared with the after-dinner food offerings eaten in Roman times. Additional ingredients combined into *majoon* candies included poppy, cucumber and caraway seeds, almonds, ginger, cloves, cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg and rosebuds. These

In modern India, ganja, which is to be smoked, is usually diced up with a little dried tobacco, and sometimes a few drops of water are added.

pungent spices may have been preferred by the well-to-do because they masked the distinctive herbal taste of cannabis extracts or because they were expensive. *Bhang* extracts were also used to make a green ice cream known as *hari kulfi*.

Dried, unfertilized (and therefore seedless) pistillate inflorescences and adjacent leaflets from the top of female cannabis plants form a very potent preparation known widely as *marijuana* or by many other names including its Hindi name *ganja*, which is usually smoked in pipes or cigarettes but can also be added to cooked foods. In modern India, *ganja*, which is to be smoked, is usually diced up with a little dried tobacco, and sometimes a few drops of water are added. A little tobacco is placed in the *chillum*

(conical smoking pipe) first, then a layer of the prepared *ganja*, and then more tobacco and a coal on top. The *chillum* is passed around, and each person takes a single draw. Effects differ from those occasioned by eating *bhang*: "Heaviness, laziness, and agreeable reveries ensue, but the person can be readily roused and is able to discharge routine occupations" (O'Shaughnessy 1839).

The New World equivalent to seedless *ganja* is *sinsemilla* (colloquial Spanish for "seedless") marijuana. *Ganja* is most often cultivated by removing male plants to prevent fertilization of the females and prevent formation of seeds. In actuality, removal of male plants is rarely complete and some, but significantly fewer, seeds form. Many more seeds would form if male plants were allowed to freely fertilize the females. However, intersex plants with both male and female flowers are fairly common in Indian varieties, and special workers called *podhars* were employed to remove them. Throughout the nineteenth century, areas surrounding Khandwa and Gwalior in central India and Bengal in eastern India were the largest producers and exporters of *ganja* to the remainder of the Indian subcontinent. Much of this legal *ganja* was exported to the Northwest Territories and the Punjab region



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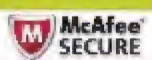
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*Source: Seedsman Customer Satisfaction Survey, Jan 2013. For verification contact support@seedsman.com



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along the Indus River; these were the ancient lands of the *Vedas* where cannabis use was prevalent. One of the few remaining seedless *ganja* cultures was located in Kerala along the western shore of the southern tip of India. In 1985, *ganja* production and sales were still licensed in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal states, which compose the traditional *ganja*-cultivating regions of India.

The most potent preparation of cannabis consists of concentrated resin glands (the product of secretory hairs called *glandular trichomes*), which are collected from flowering female plants and compressed into solid lumps. This preparation, referred to as *hashish* in Arabic and *charas* in Persian or Hindi, can be quite powerful and is often smoked and mixed with tobacco. The first, and certainly the most widely used, concentrated cannabis drug was hand-rubbed *charas*, collected in much the same way as it is



Multipurpose cannabis crops are sown with dense spacing in small gardens throughout the Himalayan foothills of western Nepal. Whole plants consisting only of a single stalk topped with an inflorescence are harvested and carried back to the village, where the psychoactive *charas* resin is rubbed from the flowers, the seeds removed, and the fiber peeled from the stalks. Three products are derived from each plant: fiber for weaving cloth, seeds for eating and sowing, and psychoactive *charas* resin to smoke.

today. Nomadic peoples could have easily accumulated it during their seasonal migrations and used it throughout the year, while the production of powdered hashish would have required at least temporary settlements where cannabis plants could be dried and sieved. Large-scale

production of hashish requires agricultural production and a concentrated workforce, which could only be supplied by settled agrarian communities.

Nepal has a long tradition of harvesting cannabis resin by rubbing the flowers of ripe female plants, and remains the most internationally well-known source of hand-rubbed hashish. Many popular legends report that cannabis resin was collected on leather aprons or naked skin. In Nepal, hashish is known as *charas* and usually refers only to traditional hand-rubbed resin, which is by far the most common form found in the Himalayas.

However, most Nepalese usually smoke *ganja* or swallow *bhanga* concoctions rather than smoking *charas*. *Ganja* is still the preparation favored by *sadhus* and the lower classes in Nepal, while *charas* is more expensive and can be afforded only by upper-class Nepalese and foreigners.

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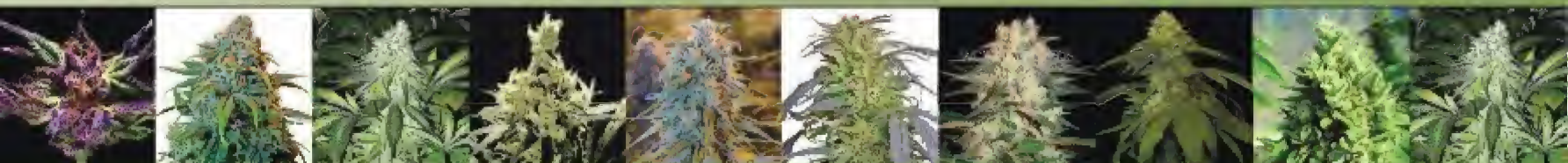
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The British-administered *Report of the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission* of 1893–94 was an extensive survey of cannabis cultivation, processing and local usage performed with the intention of taxing the cannabis trade. It describes the preparation of hand-rubbed *charas* in India:

The female plants, having been cut in November, are spread out to dry for 24 hours. The people then sit around in the heat of the day, and pluck off the flower heads, which are now full of seed, discarding the coarser leaves. Each handful is rubbed between the palms for about ten minutes and thrown aside. In the course of time a quantity of juice accumulates on the palms, which is scraped off and rolled into balls. These are *charas*. Sometimes the plants are trodden instead of handled and the feet scraped. A more uncommon method, by which a choice kind of *charas* is obtained, is to pass the hands up the ripe plants while they are still standing in the field.

Charas was also rubbed from plants in a few scattered regions across India until the early 1980s and is still produced for commerce near Manali in the northern

Charas was also rubbed from plants in a few scattered regions across India until the early 1980s and is still produced for commerce near Manali in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.

Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The paucity of evidence concerning the history of hashish has resulted in much speculation as to the antiquity of the preparation itself. Many assume that hashish is ancient, although proof of early manufacture or use is sorely lacking. Archeological evidence and historical records from Eurasia may help determine more specifically where hashish originated, but this is unlikely to happen in the near future. However, the general origins of hashish may be traced through historical records to Central Asia, but precisely where or in which period is yet undetermined. All of Central Asia has been contested territory for millennia. Invaders and merchants from both East and West brought their cultural influences, various traditions,

beliefs and legends together, while leaving few written records. Although presently we do not know when it started, there was significant trade in hashish (*charas*), at least in more modern times, from Central Asia to India, moving along innumerable trade routes and over high Himalayan passes to South Asia from the region formerly referred to as Chinese Turkestan (now known as Xinjiang, the “new frontier” province in Central Asia). In 1937 and 1938, this trade accounted for 42 percent of the total value of products being moved from Xinjiang to India. ✨

Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany is published in large format by the University of California Press, and its 464 pages are lavishly illustrated with color and black-and-white photos, maps, line drawings and tables. The first 800 copies will be bound in hardcover.

Robert C. Clarke is a cannabis researcher and projects manager for the International Hemp Association in Amsterdam. He is the author of *Marijuana Botany and Hashish!* as well as the co-author of *Hemp Diseases and Pests*.

Mark D. Merlin is a botany professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He is the author of *Man and Marijuana* and *On the Trail of the Ancient Opium Poppy* as well as the co-author of *Kava: The Pacific Drug*.

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BY JUSTIN HAMPTON
PHOTOS BY STEVE PAYNE

VICENTE FOX

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

A LARMED BY THE DRUG WAR VIOLENCE THAT HAS BEEN RAVAGING HIS COUNTRY SINCE HE LEFT OFFICE IN 2006, FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX HAS CREATED A COALITION THAT INCLUDES AMERICAN CANNABIS LAW REFORM ACTIVISTS TO FOCUS ON A SINGULAR GOAL: LEGALIZING POT.

IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY *REVOLUTION OF HOPE*, VICENTE FOX RECALLS A FORMATIVE MOMENT WITH MANUEL CLOUTHIER, HIS POLITICAL MENTOR IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (PAN), WHO URGED FOX TO RUN FOR THE MEXICAN CONGRESS UNDER THE BANNER OF PAN IN THE LATE 1980S. FEARING REPERCUSSIONS FROM ANGERING MEXICO'S DOMINANT POLITICAL MACHINE, THE INSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRI) WITH THIS MOVE, FOX TOLD CLOUTHIER THAT THE PRI WOULD CERTAINLY DESTROY HIM. "NOT IF WE KEEP MOVING," CLOUTHIER ASSURED HIM. "IF THE WOLVES CAN'T CATCH YOU, THEY CAN'T EAT YOU."

THIRTEEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE HIS ASCENT TO THE MEXICAN PRESIDENCY, AND FOX STILL CAN'T STOP MOVING. THESE DAYS, IT'S WITH MAJOR CANNABIS-INDUSTRY PLAYERS LIKE DIEGO PELLICER'S JAMEN SHIVELY AND HARBORSIDE HEALTH CENTER'S STEVE DEANGELO IN THE FIGHT TO ESTABLISH A SANER ALTERNATIVE TO THE WAR ON DRUGS. A THREE-DAY SUMMIT IN JULY AT FOX'S SAN CRISTÓBAL RANCH IN GUANAJUATO BROUGHT HIS CONTACTS FROM THE STATES TO MEET WITH JULIO FRENK, DEAN OF THE HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND A FORMER FOX CABINET MEMBER, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM POLAND AND PORTUGAL. FOX HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD GROW CANNABIS ON HIS FAMILY FARM WHEN IT BECOMES LEGAL.

TO BE FAIR, FOX HAS NO SHORTAGE OF DETRACTORS, WHO CONSIDER HIS LATEST TRANSFORMATION AN ATTEMPT TO OBSCURE A LARGELY DISAPPOINTING REIGN AT LOS PINOS (MEXICO'S EQUIVALENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE), WHERE HE LARGELY TOED THE US LINE ON DRUG POLICY. BUT AS EVERYONE FROM FOX'S FORMER COLLEAGUES AT COCA-COLA MEXICO (WHERE HE WORKED HIS WAY UP FROM DELIVERY TRUCK DRIVER TO PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY) TO GEORGE W. BUSH CAN ATTEST, FOX IS NOTHING IF NOT TENACIOUS. "JUST GIVE ME A PRODUCT, WHETHER DEMOCRACY OR THE STATE OF GUANAJUATO, A BOTTLE OF COKE OR A CRATE OF BROCCOLI, AND I'M READY TO SELL," FOX SAYS IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY. IN THIS INTERVIEW, HE DISCUSSES HIS LATEST ENDEAVOR—THE END OF CANNABIS PROHIBITION—AND WHY IT MATTERS SO MUCH TO HIM.

What brings you to the United States, and what have you accomplished on your visit so far?

What we have seen in the last six years in Mexico—the violence, the crime, the killings, the bloody mess that we're involved in—attracted the commitment of Centro Fox [Fox's think tank] to do something about it. Because what has been done up to now—the War on Drugs provoked by President Nixon 40 years ago—has been a total failure. The policy and the strategy followed by President [Felipe] Calderón in Mexico has also been a total failure. So with this in mind, I came looking for the best ideas, something strategic and important for Mexico. So I visited Colorado; I visited North California; I was on the bay in San Francisco. We decided to host a symposium that is going to be run at Centro Fox in Mexico, inviting delegations from the United States, delegations from Europe and Latin America, delegations from Mexico to analyze, to discuss [and share] the latest information on all of the processes that are going on worldwide.

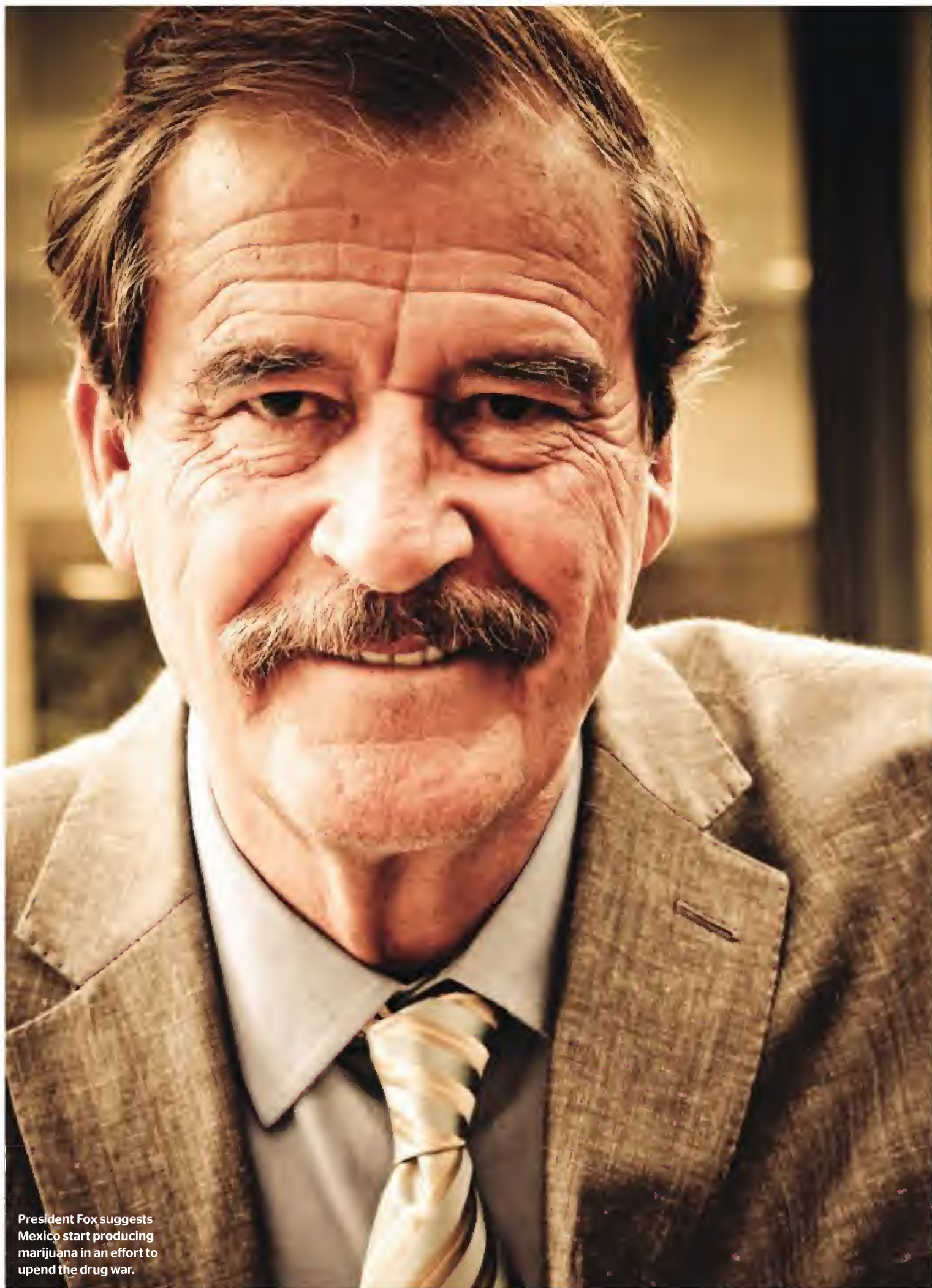
We will host congressmen that are going to present for the first time a bill in Mexico [based on the legalization of cannabis in Washington and Colorado]—very similar. With it, I hope Mexico finally

makes progress and gets out of the trap we are in with the violence, crime, violations of human rights and violations of due process. These ideas, I am sure, will be accepted by public opinion and will influence decision makers.

How much could legalization hurt the cartels at this point? And how would you prevent a continued black market?

We have to accept that this is a first step and that it would not be the solution by itself. But certainly, being [that cannabis] averages up to 40 percent of the cartels' income, it certainly will have an impact. The money that the cartels are raising here in the United States, being the largest consumer market in the world, is over 50 billion US dollars every year. This money is brought back to Mexico to bribe government officials, to hire kids, to buy the guns and ammunition they are using in this violent war.

[We want to] shift this industry from criminals to businessmen, from no taxes being paid to a huge amount. But the most important thing that has to happen is that all that money has to be invested in education, information and prevention—and at the same time, having citizens make responsible decisions. I don't think that governments can specifically bring this about. That will come from citizens,



President Fox suggests Mexico start producing marijuana in an effort to upend the drug war.

from the young kids, from everybody choosing to become more responsible in taking care of their own body and their own health.

A big argument for legalization and regulation here in the States is the creation of tax revenue and domestic jobs. How do you plan to defend against American protectionism?

My highest priority is to stop the violence, and this is one clear way that we will accomplish that. But we are linked, totally linked, through NAFTA. And this means that we cannot make separate, independent decisions. What's going on here in the United States to legalization has a strong impact in Mexico. It has a very strong impact on the border itself. So if we move ahead in Mexico and speed up the process, it will have a very strong impact also in states like California. These are the reasons to work together.

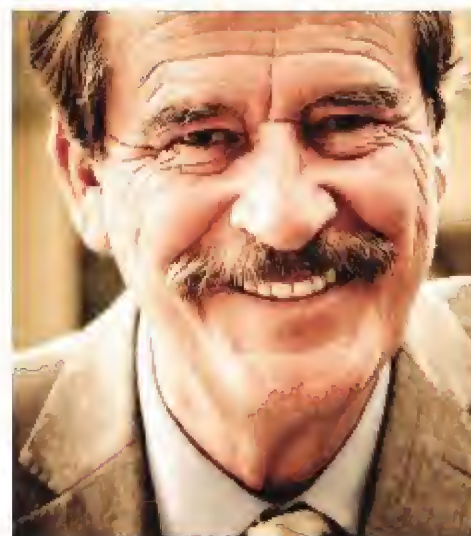
In the US, the National Institute on Drug Abuse controls the supply of marijuana for all clinical studies. Because of its focus on addiction and abuse, NIDA supplies marijuana exclusively for studies on the negative effects of cannabis. How does it work in Mexico? Would you like to see Mexico become a center for cannabis research?

Right now, the situation is totally of abstinence. No research, nothing—it's just the culture of prohibition. This is one thing that I have discussed with the groups here [in the US]. We're going to propose a very sophisticated research process. [There are] many good products in Mexico: peyote and many other herbs and plants that are used by the indigenous communities for curative purposes. I'm sure this plant has those advantages. I'm not a user, of course—I won't ever be a user. But I respect [the right of] anybody to make decisions that have to do with himself [and that don't] affect third

parties. I'm not in agreement with it, but I fully respect [the right to make those decisions].

Jamen Shively has come under fire for trying to market cannabis too early. Yet you've praised his efforts. What are his critics missing?

I happen to know Jamen from a long, long time ago. He's got a good heart. He's compassionate and he's passionate about what he's doing, and he's absolutely convinced



"You have a guy like Steve Jobs: He used cannabis and LSD for 10 years, and he's the Einstein of the 21st century."

that he's doing good for the community. I met him when he was still working with Microsoft and I met him before, when he used to come to Mexico to build latrines at the homes of the poor. He's convinced that with this, we can reduce the violence in Mexico; that through this, we can make the youth more responsible and get them out of crime and violence. And he's convinced that this plant, which his grandfather used to harvest and grow, is a good plant that only makes you sick if you use it excessively. So the thing is to administrate yourself [and your use]. You have a guy like Steve Jobs: He used cannabis and LSD for 10 years, and he's the Einstein of the 21st century, one of the most brilliant minds we can conceive of. He was able to administrate himself [and maintain] his health, keep his

mind brilliant and do great things in the world.

We're moving from prohibition to regulation. What is being discussed right now in Washington State by the alcohol and cigarette agencies is that regulation—where you can smoke, whether or not you can [use] it before you drive, or whether someone is old enough to do this responsibly—should be better than the [regulations] they have for alcohol or cigarettes. Regulation is a key factor, and

we have to pass from debate and discussion of ideas to action, and these steps have only been taken in Washington, Colorado, Poland and Portugal. They're leading this change, this game change. And what is key is that today we are in the game. People like Jamen, they are in the arena; they have assumed a responsibility upon their shoulders, and they know that they cannot make mistakes. They know that they have to run this process totally in accordance

with the law and with the will of the people. So they have to be very careful, because they are the leaders; they are the vanguard.

We, the rear guard, will come behind them. And this is what I really have an interest in [seeing] happen—because if Mexico narrows the gap, then Mexico will start moving to the vanguard. And I'm sure we will attend to it. Mexican people are a very conservative, religious popula-

tion in some parts of [the country]. Others [parts] are not—they're very liberal, like Mexico City. I spoke with the mayor of Mexico City, which is the second-most-important political position in Mexico after the president, and he's totally open. He will let all this not only be discussed and debated, but he will open the possibilities to go to Congress with bills that would change the situation.

is very different from prohibition in ethical and moral terms. Not only did God create us free, but the founding fathers of this nation were absolutely committed to the idea that governments do not have the right to intervene in my conscience, my behavior or in my decision-making—unless I affect third parties; then the state has the right to intervene. But if not, it shouldn't happen.

In June, the Organization of American States (OAS) suggested revisiting the War on Drugs. The American ambassador said the US would consider any solution other than legalization. Did you see any progress in that assembly?

No, not at all yet. By the way, a delegation [from the OAS] is coming to the symposium, and that's going to be very important, because now

Has the current president of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, improved at all on Calderón's reign with regards to the Drug War?

Has the current president of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, improved at all on Calderón's reign with regards to the Drug War?

It's very different to be in that chair, responsible for so many things. You cannot move so freely. Some would think that presidents can do what they want. No, presidents have a big responsibility, and they have to balance



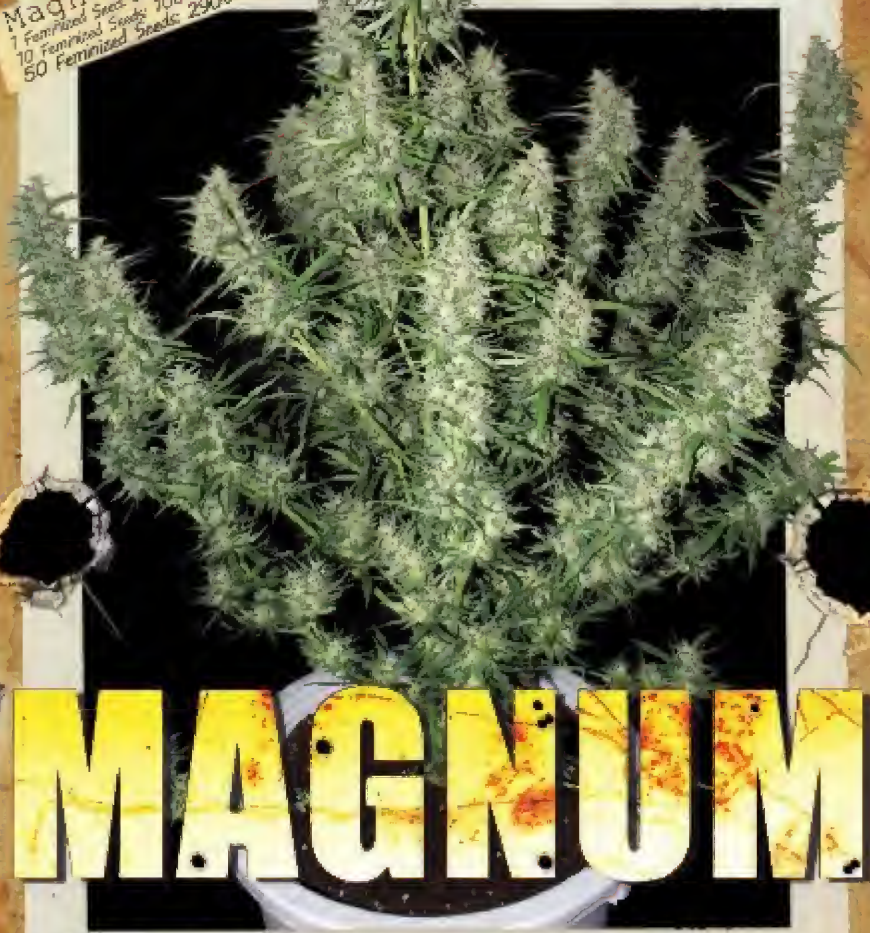
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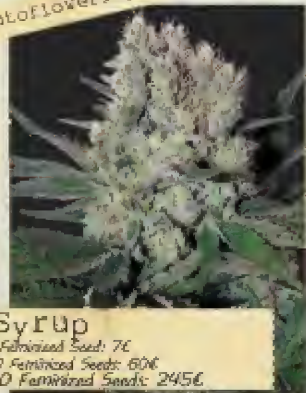
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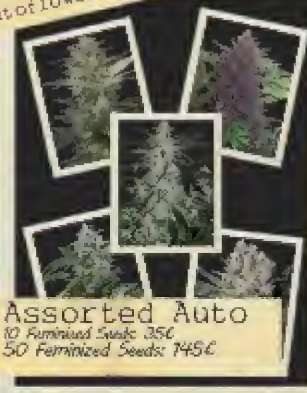
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out positions. So I understand President Peña's not taking a position; I understand that President Obama has not taken a position personally. But also, I understand that in their minds and in their conscience, they know that this is coming, and they know this will happen. So what they are waiting for is public opinion to advance. Today, citizens and public opinion are way ahead of governments. Sooner or later, [those governments] will have to obey—they will have to listen to what the people are demanding.

It seems that Mexico is stuck between a rock and a hard place: between a ravenous US drug market and an intransigent US law-enforcement apparatus. Yet given the benefit of hindsight, do you see any way you could have possibly turned the tide?

I'm very proud that in my last year in government, 2006, the lowest crime rate in the history of Mexico was accomplished. What detonated the [current situation], I think, was, number one, bringing the army into the streets—I think that was the wrong decision, and I said so to Calderón, who is in my own party, but who I had to [disagree with]. I think it was a big mistake. But the problem here is [Mexico's position] in between the mammoth consumer market of the United States and the drug-producing nations in the south—Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Mexico's trapped in between.

The philosophy of the United States is to take the war out of your territory. So you go to Vietnam, you go to Iraq. You go everywhere to make

"My position goes further than legalizing marijuana—I'm for legalizing everything, and letting each individual decide what he wants to do."

war, to avoid war here. So the strategy in drugs is to say, "Let's stop the drugs there in Colombia." Now it's Mexico. We get a tip of 500 million US dollars a year, but behind that is an instruction: "Okay, you hold them down there in Mexico. [We] don't want to see them here."

And once the drug crosses the border, it's everywhere in the States. So I ask myself, what is the DAE—or whatever the agency's name is—what is the CIA [doing]? Where are the police that are supposed to be enforcing the law? Because the United States is one of the very few countries that is still holding [on to] prohibition. In Mexico, it's not prohibited—you don't have a penalty because you consume drugs. It's prohibited to distribute and to sell, but not to consume, and the same is [true] in all of Europe. The only nation that keeps the prohibition is here. And how can you explain then that [the US is] the largest consumer market in the world? It is very contradictory, what is going on here.

You've said that you'd grow the plant yourself if it was legal. Have you put any thought into

what you'd grow—if you'd grow outdoors or indoors, or if it would be a hobby or a business?

Well, this is [just the] press: They asked me, "Once it's legal, and you being a farmer, would you produce marijuana?" Why not? Maybe I will.

Here in America, we've seen the rise of synthetic cannabinoids. Have they become a presence in Mexico? What is your relationship to them?

I understand that it's a growing part of the market—not the natural products, but the chemical and artificial products. Those are the ones that are expanding the market. And those are also produced here in the States. You're a large producer of those kinds of drugs. So that's why my position goes further than legalizing marijuana—I'm for legalizing *everything*, and letting each individual decide on his own responsibility what he wants to do.

If you could deliver a message to President Obama, what would it be, in terms of what he can do now?

As I said, the responsibility of being president is *something*. But what he has to do is to listen, to get good information, to learn from experiences [and] not to say no just for the sake of saying no—not to say, "The law prohibits it, and my obligation is to comply with the law." That is true, but he has to be open and, when the

time comes, when the change shows advantages [instead of] disadvantages, he should be open—and he should even lead the change. That he could do, if he wants. ✨

Watch Vicente Fox talk about pot and legalization at hightimes.com/vicentefox.



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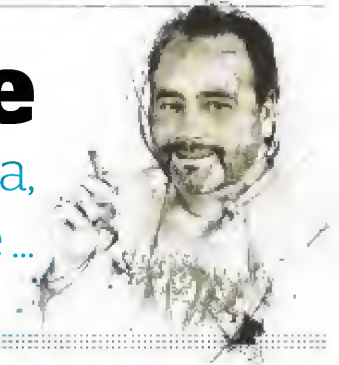


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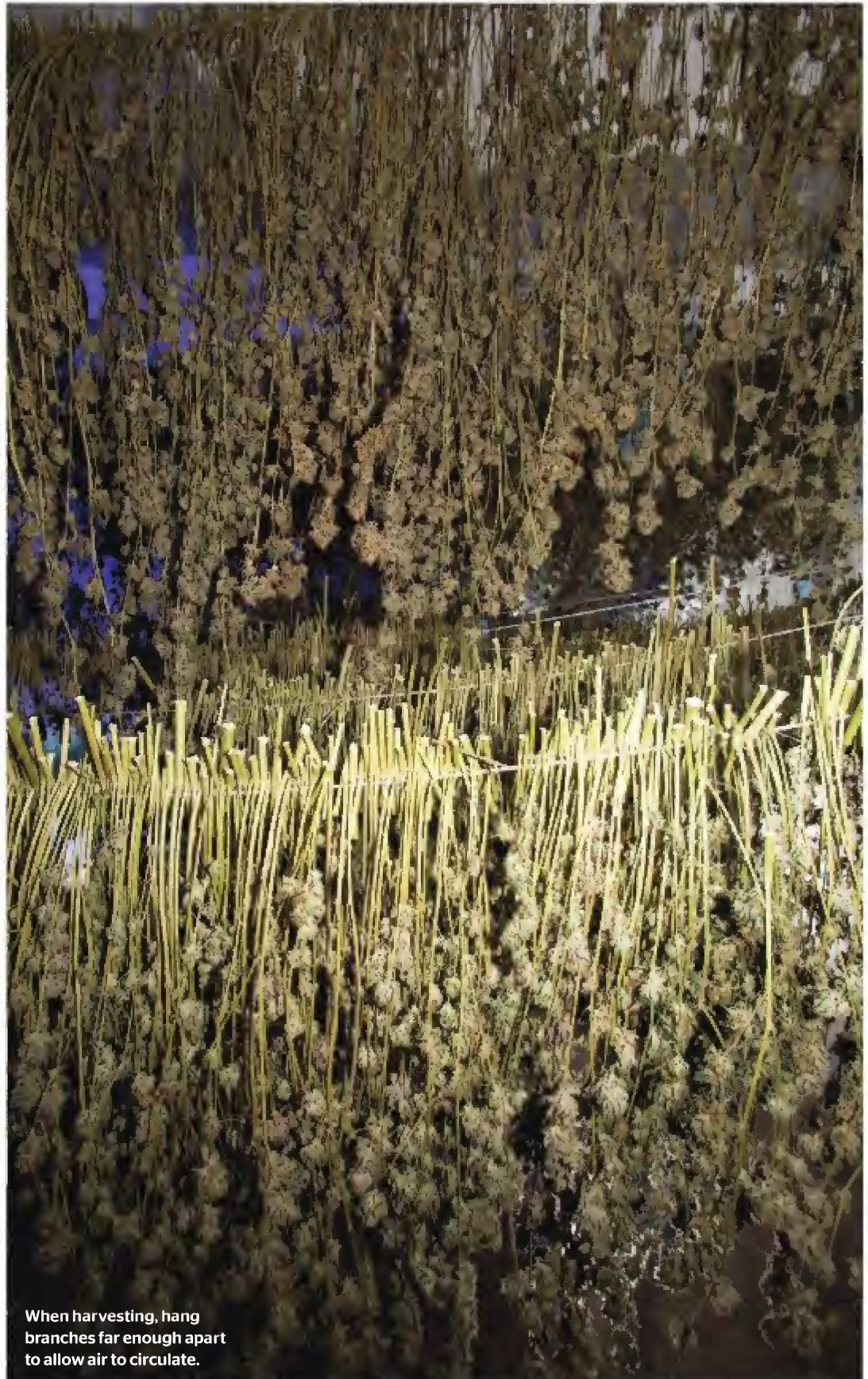
Send your cannabis cultivation questions to @deardanko or deardanko@hightimes.com.

SUBJECT: **Harvest Right**

FROM: **Corey B.**

👋 I've heard you explain many times about the harvesting process and cutting off branches and hanging them. Everyone seems to condemn the method of cutting the bud off the stem and letting it dry in hanging baskets. This is the method I use, and it has worked very well for me. But am I losing anything like aroma, terpenes, potency or taste? This method is very efficient, and it allows me to manicure my buds while they're still wet, which makes them more presentable in the end. What are your thoughts on this? I've never heard you talk about this method, but many others have condemned it, like I said.

Dear Corey,
I prefer the method where you manicure your buds wet on whole branches and then hang the branches to dry. This way, the moisture leaves the plant more slowly and the process takes a bit more time, but the results are a cleaner smoke and tastier buds. Buds that are taken off the branches often dry out too quickly, leaving a "green" chlorophyll taste that never really goes away. The aroma is also better with slower-dried nugs. Once the branches snap instead of bending, you can remove the buds from the branches and jar them up to cure.



When harvesting, hang branches far enough apart to allow air to circulate.

Danko Tip: Drooping leaves are usually a sign that you need to water your plants.

A massive field of Kushage from T.H.Seeds growing outdoors in Spain.



SUBJECT: **Successful Outdoor Grow**
FROM: **Scooter**

🌱 Is it possible to grow buds outdoors that are as good as the indoor stuff I get from my delivery service? They're charging me an arm and a leg (\$75 for an eighth!) and I'd like to break free of their grip, but the quality of their nugs is so good. I have a private backyard with plenty of sunshine, so any advice is greatly appreciated.

Dear Scooter,
You absolutely can grow outdoor buds that rival those you've been purchasing, and you'll be doing it for pennies on the dollar using the free power of the sun. But you have to abide by a few simple rules. Plant in the spring or early summer using seeds or clones. If you're using regular (non-feminized) seeds, check your plants closely as they begin to

flower in late July or early August. Discard the males and let the females flourish until you harvest in late fall.

Keep your plants in full sun and well watered. Provide organic plant food if you see them start to yellow or show other signs of deficiencies. Flush them with plain water for two weeks prior to cutting them down. When you harvest, take care to trim them properly, and hang the full branches to dry until the stems snap instead of bending.

The next step is curing, and it's highly underappreciated: This is the process that separates connoisseur-quality bud from average pot. Snip the buds off the dry branches and put them into opaque, sealed jars. Open the jars once or twice a day to release the remaining liquid. This "sweats" out the moisture until the buds are perfectly cured and ready to smoke.

SUBJECT: **Flower Forcing**
FROM: **Smot Poker**

🌱 I live in an area that usually gets its first frost around late September. I have a plant growing that takes up to 75 days to harvest, so I was wondering if it's possible to induce flowering early on an outdoor plant—and if so, what would the outcome be?

Dear Smot,
Yes, it is possible to do, but it will require a bit of work on your part. You're going to be utilizing a process called "light deprivation" during the earliest part of the flowering period. Outdoor plants don't tend to start flowering until early August on average, but you'll use light deprivation to start this process in June or July.

You'll be reducing the amount of light that your plant gets per day, and this will require some sort of dark, opaque covering. It can be as simple as an individual tent that you place over the plant, or a mini-greenhouse with a dark-colored tarp that goes over it. (I've even seen greenhouses with solar-operated winches and timers so that the growers don't have to manually cover the plants every day.)

Starting in July, deprive your plant of any light in excess of 12 hours per day, every day, and you'll see flowers forming before the end of the month. When late August rolls around and the natural light is reduced to 12 hours or less per day, discontinue the light-deprivation process. You now have a plant that's been already flowering for a month and will easily finish before any frost comes around.

You could also extend the season beyond the frost by using a mini-greenhouse and keeping the plant warm with a heater. This requires a bit more room, and it isn't really feasible for one plant—but I've seen heated greenhouses in Maine growing tropical fruits in December.

SUBJECT: **A Little Bit of Everything**
FROM: **Megan**

🌱 I'm about to start growing indoors for the first time, and I have a few questions. When starting the plants off, should I use a high-drainage soil? In one of your videos, you used a perlite and coco mix. Should that be

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Danko Tip: To avoid having plants stretch long and lanky as they reach for more light, raise your lights with them as they grow.

used for all stages of the growing process? Also, is pot a sun-loving plant, or does it like sun only part of the time? And should I let my plants dry out between waterings, or do they like their roots to stay damp? Finally, is there a temperature that's preferred during the day, and is there a temp my plants shouldn't go below?

I'm mostly asking what type of climate they prefer, or does this vary by strain? I worked in a greenhouse for many years, and I'm trying to place the pot plant in a category. Is there a common plant that pot grows similarly to, or is it in a category all its own? Sorry to ask so many questions, but I'm just hoping to learn all I can before I start growing.

Dear Megan,

Wow, that is a lot of questions! I'll take them one by one. Yes, a high-drainage soil is great, but you'll need to add more nutrient solution, since some of it will drain out. Perlite and coco are good soil-less-mix additives, but I would hesitate to grow a crop in just those two.

Marijuana plants love all-day sunshine, but they must be watered accordingly to keep up with the explosive growth that results. They also like to dry out between waterings and don't like having "wet feet." Their preferred daytime temps are 70°F to 75°F, and their preferred nighttime temp is around 65°F, though the plants can handle anything down to the 40s—but no frosts. Finally, the closest category you could place marijuana in is tomatoes or other annual fruiting plants, though I would hesitate to take that too far due to some unique nutritional requirements.

Hope that helps, and good luck!

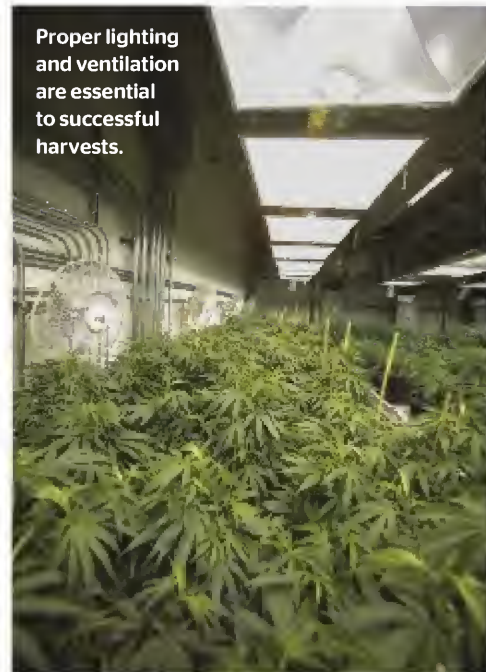
SUBJECT: **Miracle No**

FROM: **Dylan M.**

🌱 I have two Blue Dreams in the backyard, but the spikes on their leaves are wilting and brown. They're growing in two 5-gallon Home Depot buckets with four half-dollar-size squares cut out; also, I give them 1 to 2 cups of water per day and 2 cups of Miracle-Gro tomato fertilizer once a week. Is that enough or too much? Please help!

Dear Dylan,
Not only are you giving your plants the

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wrong fertilizer, but you're overfeeding them with it. Miracle-Gro isn't ideal for a number of reasons, first of which is that it's a chemical fertilizer manufactured by Scotts, a loathsome company that makes money by poisoning the earth. Look them up on Wikipedia for a list of their many ecological transgressions.

The first thing you need to do is thoroughly flush out your plants with plain water. You can bring them indoors to a bathtub or run room-temperature water through their containers outside, but you need to do this until plenty of that water has poured out from the holes in the bottom of your buckets. Then switch to an organic fertilizer, and start with a mild solution the first few times you water again.

SUBJECT: **Branch-Bending Technique**

FROM: **Al**

🌱 I was recently reading up on a plant-training technique where the branch is twisted in opposite directions until you hear a snap. It's supposed to break the plant fibers and cause them to rebuild, creating a stronger branch with better buds. Would it be safe to use this technique while in flower? Stay high!

Dear Al,
I first heard about the technique you're referring to from Soma, the master breeder behind Soma Sacred Seeds. The way I would describe it is a bit more

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Danko Tip: Mist your plants with a foliar-feeding solution a half-hour before the lights come on to avoid hot water droplets burning the leaves.

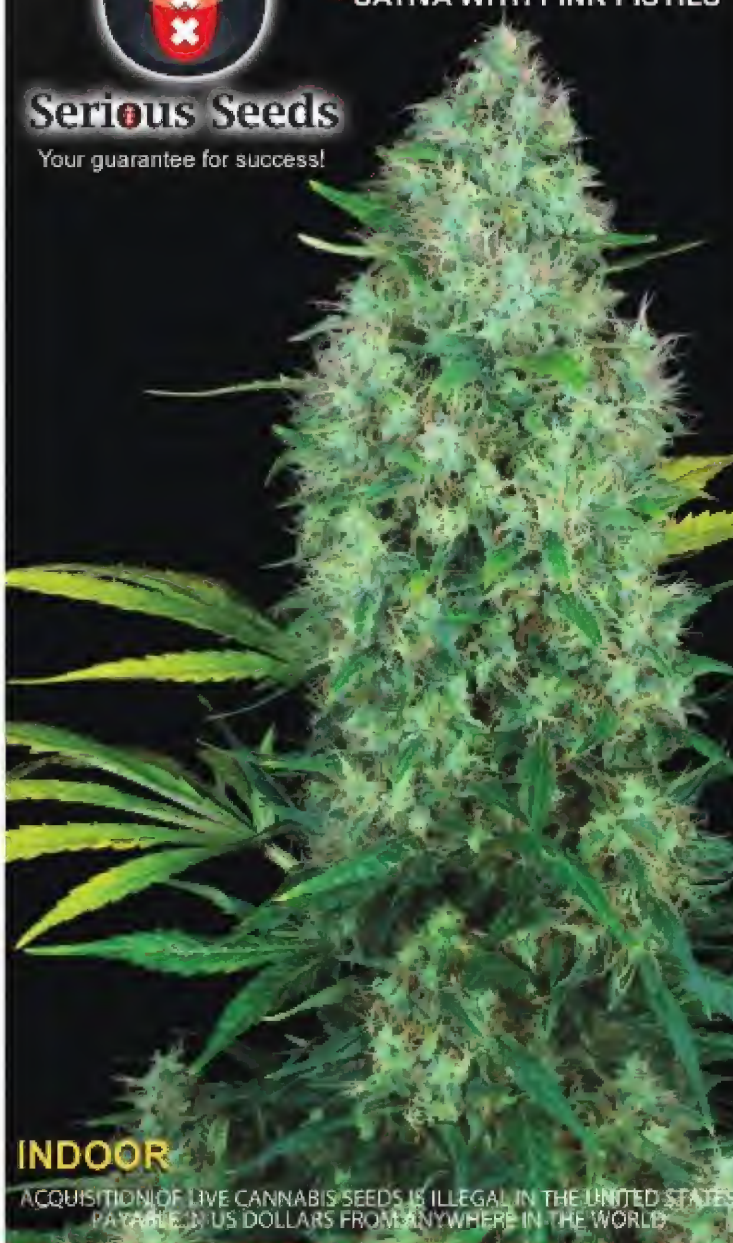
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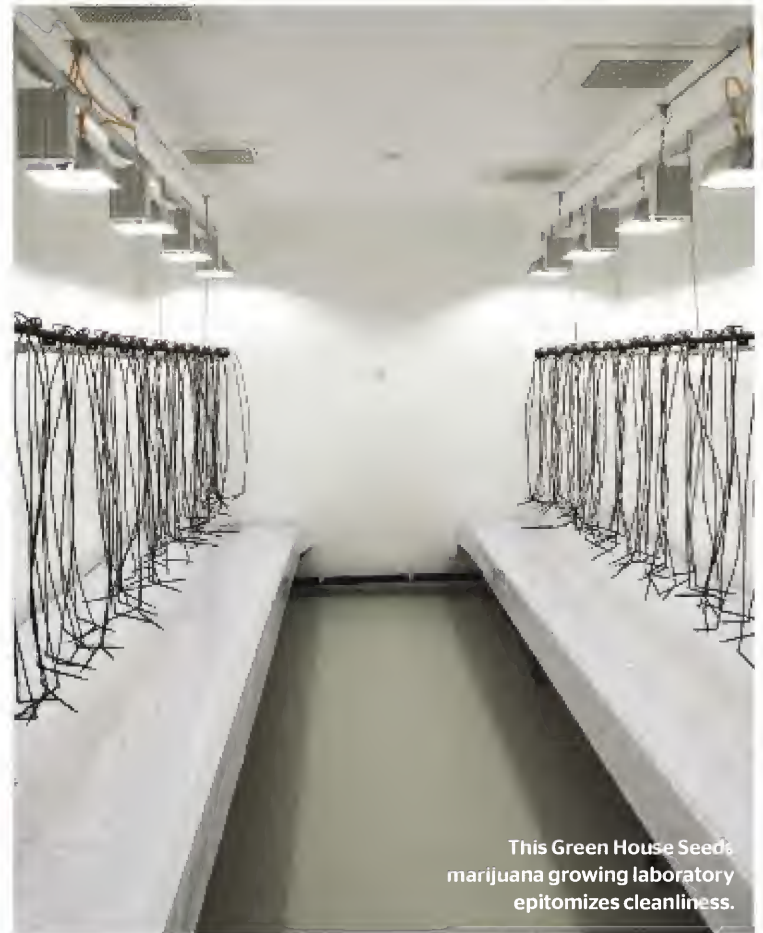
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SUBJECT: **Clean Rooms**

FROM **Billy's Bro**

One of my buddies always has issues with bugs and powdery mildew in his growroom. It's gotten to the point where I won't even go over to his place for a visit for fear of bringing home any of those unwanted pests. He thinks he's just unlucky, but I try to tell him that it's a symptom of not keeping his growroom clean. He's got dead leaves all over the place, all kinds of decaying matter lying around, even puddles of nutrient solution on the floor. (And that's nothing—you should see his living room and bedroom!) Can you straighten out my bro and let him know what a growroom should look?

Dear Billy's Bro,
I can't overemphasize the importance of cleanliness in a growroom. Most problems, from pests to molds to you name it, arise from not keeping the room clean enough. You wouldn't believe how many growrooms I've visited that had issues similar to your friend's. It all stems from a lack of initiative. Smart growers know that their entire house should be kept in order: Many a neglected houseplant has brought a plague of pests upon its owner. Tell your friend to keep it clean and he'll get a lot more lucky! 🌿

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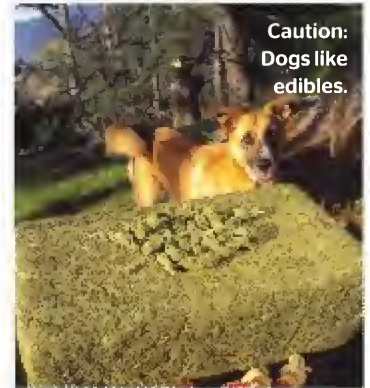
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Why would a plant evolve to have THC?

Chuck Darwin

Hi Chuck, There's been a lot of crazy speculation on this subject, but one theory is that THC protects the plant and discourages predators. It definitely protects against ultraviolet rays by absorbing the sun's radiation, thereby minimizing heat damage. And THC might keep some herbivores from chomping on the leaves (much like caffeine and nicotine, which both appear to prevent certain bugs from eating various plants).



Caution: Dogs like edibles.

increase in the number of our best friends who have been taken to the vet with troubles related to eating brownies or cookies. So please refrigerate; you'll be glad you did. Keeping edibles away from pets is the best way to keep them healthy and save a lot of money.

Is medical marijuana's impact on nausea and vomiting all about the THC?

Michelle Mesis

Hi Michelle, Although THC certainly helps, the same laboratory that identified THC in the first place recently revealed that CBD (cannabidiol) is also very important. CBD has no psychoactive effects but definitely eases the symptoms you mentioned. Research shows that it works through a different neurotransmitter, too: Instead of altering the cannabinoid receptors, CBD involves the serotonin system.

States with legal and medical cannabis seem to have more marijuana use, but I wonder if it's only because people there are more willing to 'fess up.

Pinocchio

Hi Pinocchio, You're on the right track: Self-reported use does correlate higher with urine-screen results in areas where medical marijuana is legal. Any perceived increase connected to changes in the law could easily stem from people being more likely to tell the truth on questionnaires. So while cannabis-law reform might not actually lead to more cannabis use, it certainly could lead to more honesty. 🌿

Will my dog eat my stash?

Liza Doolittle

Hello Liza, Probably not—it's just too dry. But dogs love edibles as much as the rest of us. Medical marijuana states have seen an

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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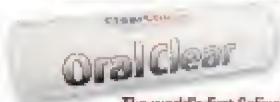


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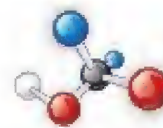
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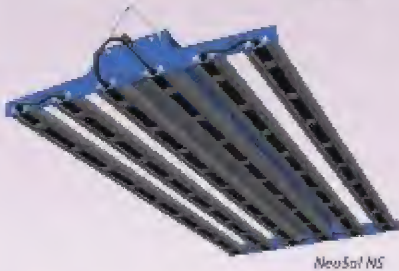
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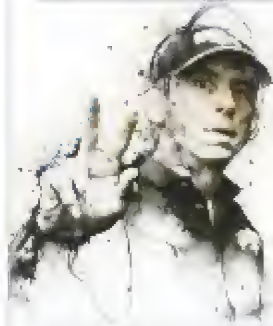
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Prohibition's Death Rattle

A new era of tolerance is dawning.

Reefer Madness came out 77 years ago, but that film was really just the capstone in a much longer campaign demonizing cannabis, an effort initially launched through the William Randolph Hearst newspaper chain in the 1920s with the guiding assistance of propaganda expert Edward Bernays, who would soon become a great inspiration to Joseph Goebbels in Nazi Germany. In fact, the Hearst campaign to demonize weed in America has eerie parallels with Goebbels's campaign to demonize Jews: *Kristallnacht* was not a spontaneous event, but the culmination of a carefully calculated plot, just like *Reefer Madness*.

Bernays is best remembered today as the PR genius who convinced young women to start smoking cigarettes, breaking a longstanding taboo. At the time, some towns actually had laws against women smoking in public, so hated was this nasty habit. But Bernays cleverly linked cigarettes with women's liberation, and soon young women were smoking away and getting cancer. However, long after he'd retired from public relations—and after his wife had died from lung cancer herself—Bernays expressed regret at having helped the tobacco companies make billions at the expense of American lives.

Isn't it strange that the man who successfully got the United States hooked on cigarettes is also the same man who helped demonize smoking pot?

Thankfully, we're now at the end of pot prohibition, but that doesn't mean this system will go quietly into the night. There seems to be a blitz of new anti-marijuana propaganda taking place right now, although I consider it the death rattle of prohibitionists, because the best they can muster is to retread the same old tired lies.

So it came as no surprise that the two major prohibitionist themes today are: 1) pot makes you crazy, and 2) pot makes you lazy. Of course, a few new studies were trotted out to support these claims.

The funny thing about science these days is how little honesty seems to be necessary, and how easily any study can be contaminated by political pressure. The researchers in one of these studies looked at MRI scans and concluded that marijuana increased the severity of psychotic symptoms. Obviously, if a person

has schizophrenia, taking a mind-altering substance like marijuana might not be such a good idea—but the truth is that there are way more people going crazy from legal pills (especially SSRIs) than there are from marijuana. As Jack Herer used to say: "Show me the dead bodies."

On the other hand, the stories about marijuana "demotivating" people always make me laugh. At an age when most people retire, I just self-published 23 e-books on *SmashWords.com*

and launched my own company providing tools for the modern shaman on *Etsy.com*. My shaman store opened a month ago and already has 20 unique products for sale.

Yes, it's true that if you do nothing but work, work, work, you'll achieve more than people who kick back every few hours to relax and take a break. But you also might have a shittier quality of life and end up in an early grave just from driving yourself so hard. The same complaint about marijuana and motivation could also be made about vacations, or weekends off, or even sleeping eight hours a day: Why do any of those things when you could be working three or four jobs at once? But does anybody really blame *vacations* for making people lazy—or do they more often re-energize and recharge people so that they can come back and accomplish more?

Marijuana doesn't affect everyone the same way, and some people need to leave it be, just as some need it to survive. The rest of us can basically take it or leave it as we choose. So please, don't buy into these desperate last-ditch attempts to roll back the tide of the times. *Reefer Madness*, it's time for you to die. 🌿



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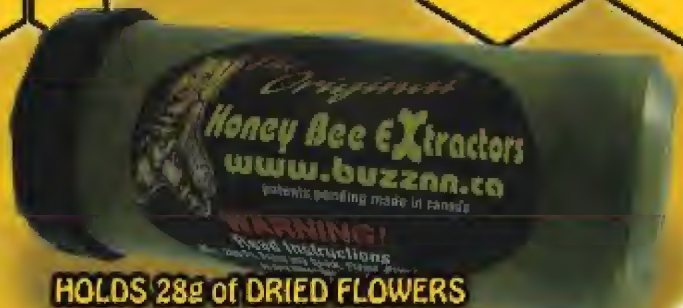
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Double Rainbow Meltdown

A YouTube sensation reveals that green is his favorite color of the rainbow.

In January of 2010, a YouTube user calling himself Hungrybear9562 posted a video on his channel of a “full-on double rainbow” that appeared outside his home near Yosemite National Park. Over 37 million views later, it’s become one of the most talked-about viral videos ever posted on the Web. What

made it so popular was not the rainbow itself, but videographer Paul “Yosemite Bear” Vasquez’s orgasmic, overly dramatic reaction. He laughed, he cried, he screamed, he even questioned

the meaning of its existence. The “Double Rainbow Guy” (as he came to be known) became an Internet sensation—covered by major media outlets, featured on shows like *Tosh.0* and even the subject of an Auto-Tune song. But then, like the rainbow itself, he seemed to disappear as quickly as he came.

Then, on June 4 of this year, Vasquez (“Bear” to his friends) posted a video in which he made a direct shout-out to *High Times*, claiming that he was going to be “the next Bob Marley or something,” saying he had information and photos that would “blow our minds,” and asking us to get in touch with him. After watching more of his videos and determining that he was a harmless hippie who loved nature and regularly hosts travelers on his couch, I contacted Bear on Twitter and invited him to our San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup later that month. I even made plans to drive out to his place a few days before the event to interview him and get a personal tour of Yosemite—but when the week of the Cup arrived, those plans were thwarted by a huge forest fire that forced evacuations all around his area. Bear, however, ignored

the evacuation order: With a view of the blaze from his front yard, he stayed instead to shoot video of it, which he then submitted to CNN’s iReport. Soon, CNN and Fox News were interviewing him about the fire, thrusting him once again into the media spotlight.

Bear walked into the Craneway Pavilion on Saturday afternoon sporting a tie-dyed rainbow bandana and two hiking poles. I greeted him cheerfully at the door and acted as his tour guide through the expo. As we made our way across the



medicating area, he revealed his “mind-blowing” secret to me: It seems the small tent seen at the bottom of that notorious double rainbow in the video was actually a greenhouse full of cannabis. Turns out that the Double Rainbow Guy is not only a pothead, but a grower as well! Oh, and appearances to the contrary, Bear assures me that he was *not* high on anything during his emotional rainbow reaction.

When Bear returned to the expo on Sunday, I invited him to present one of the Cannabis Cups onstage during the awards show that evening. He enthusiastically agreed—but unfortunately, when the time came, Bear was nowhere to be found. It wasn’t until I returned to New York that I learned why: Apparently, he’d eaten a highly medicated candy someone gave him and had a major meltdown, as evidenced by the post-Cup podcast he posted on his YouTube page, in which he blows chunks out the car window—and all over his beard—during his ride home (something tells me *that* video won’t be nearly as popular).

Nevertheless, it was a blast meeting such an inimitable Internet icon, and I look forward to hopefully blazing up with Bear again somewhere under the rainbow. 🌈

See Bobby's
interview
with Bear at
[hightimes.com/
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The Great Persuader

Medical marijuana has powered a profound change in America's attitudes.

The forces driving cannabis legalization today include the baby boomers and Gen Xers coming into power, the Internet, the economic recession and the country's increasing weariness with 75 years of prohibition. However, when it comes to the average American's perception of pot, medical marijuana has been the major instrument of change.

Following the founding of NORML in 1970, some of the earliest and most successful legal challenges to cannabis prohibition were wrought by contesting the federal government's absurd assertion that cannabis has "no medical value." The seminal case challenging this claim regarding the pharmacology of cannabis and its effects on humans was *NORML v. DEA* (1972–94). Though NORML ultimately lost in a two-to-one US Court of Appeals decision, the DEA's chief administrative law judge, Francis Young, opined in favor of rescheduling cannabis, noting among other things that it is "the safest therapeutically active substance known to man," one with "a remarkable track record of safety and efficacy," and also that "cannabis in its natural form is safer than most foods that we eat," with "no known lethal overdose recorded in human history."

After losing this long-fought legal case against the Feds, cannabis-law reformers turned their sights to California, the



nation's largest and most pro-cannabis state, only to have the then governor, Pete Wilson, veto two consecutive medical marijuana bills in 1994 and '95. But this hardly deterred the activists, and history was made in 1996 when voters passed Proposition 215, enabling patients to secure a doctor's recommendation in order to use marijuana medicinally.

With momentum on their side, cannabis-law reformers—largely led by Ethan Nadelmann of the Drug Policy Alliance—targeted most of the entire western United States. By 2000, Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Colorado (as well as Maine in the East) had deviated from the federal government's War on Drugs by allowing medical cannabis.

Currently, 19 states have adopted medical cannabis access laws—half by voter initiative, the other half by conventional legislation. Today, public polling confirms a major shift in the country's attitude toward cannabis, with

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

53 percent of those surveyed favoring legalization. Additionally, efforts to concentrate on medical cannabis—law reform, rather than decriminalization or legalization, have resulted in a remarkably effective educational campaign. Policymakers and the mainstream media now understand that cannabis is not only a safe and effective medicine, but nothing more than a mildly psychotropic herbal drug.

NORML estimates that there are well over one million medical marijuana patients now legally growing, selling and consuming cannabis products. This commerce, provided by an estimated 3,000 businesses, is largely happening right on Main Street USA, generating little to no serious local concern or political blowback. These days, with 70 percent of the American public supporting medical access, prohibitionist politicians are much better off keeping silent.

Still, there remains the tense legal friction between the states and the Feds. But the advent of legal medical cannabis in the United States has proven that this new industry can be regulated and controlled. It also produces welcome revenue for state and local governments—without the unwelcome health problems and public safety concerns associated with alcohol and tobacco use. ✨

FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

Small Rewards

Colorado's Craig Small comes up big.

When Craig Small opened his law office in Boulder, CO, in 2009, his timing couldn't have been better: Colorado's medical marijuana boom had just begun. Since then, Craig has helped dozens of businesses remain compliant with the ever-changing statutes, regulations, codes and ordinances that have formed the (often sheerly arbitrary) bureaucratic

framework for Colorado's med-pot law.

Needless to say, he's proud of that record. "Every day that one of my medical marijuana business clients is open for business," Craig says, "is evidence that the lawful availability of marijuana in our society will not cause widespread panic and cultural collapse, as was predicted by anti-marijuana proponents."

In the past year, Craig has also



served on Governor John Hickenlooper's Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force, both as a representative of Colorado NORML and as an advocate for the state's marijuana consumers (medical and, now, recreational.) As a member of the task force, he proposed and championed the establishment of a panel composed of health-care professionals to monitor the latest scientific research into cannabis, with

the aim of proposing further policies and recommendations to inform and protect Colorado's consumers. The legislature approved a substantially similar program by statute, making Colorado one of the first states ever to formally create this type of health panel to guide marijuana education efforts and policy.

Currently serving on Colorado NORML's board of directors, Craig modestly sums up all his good work by saying: "I'm very proud to have been a part of that process."

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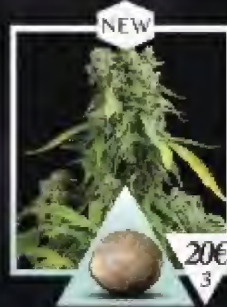
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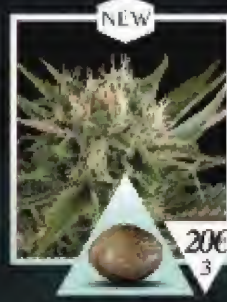
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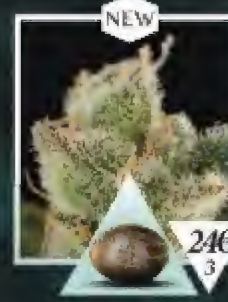
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FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Pink Wonder

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Green Avenger

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CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH


Chunky Monkey

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GROWER OF THE MONTH

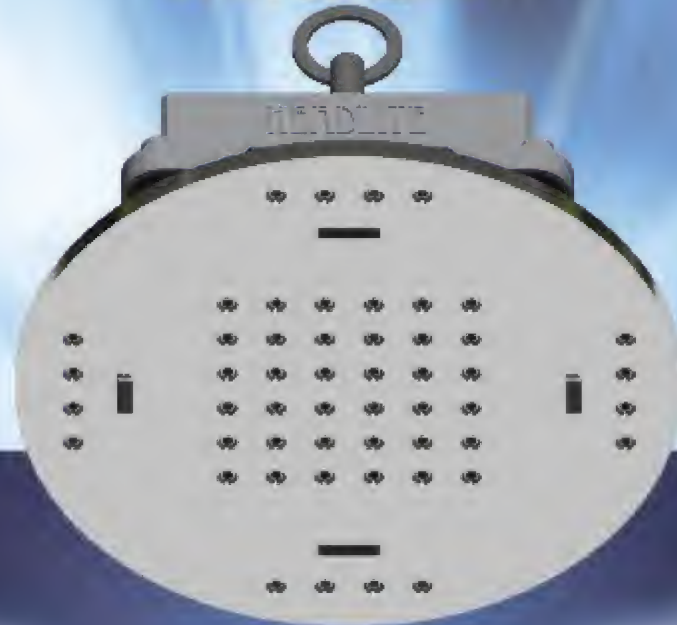
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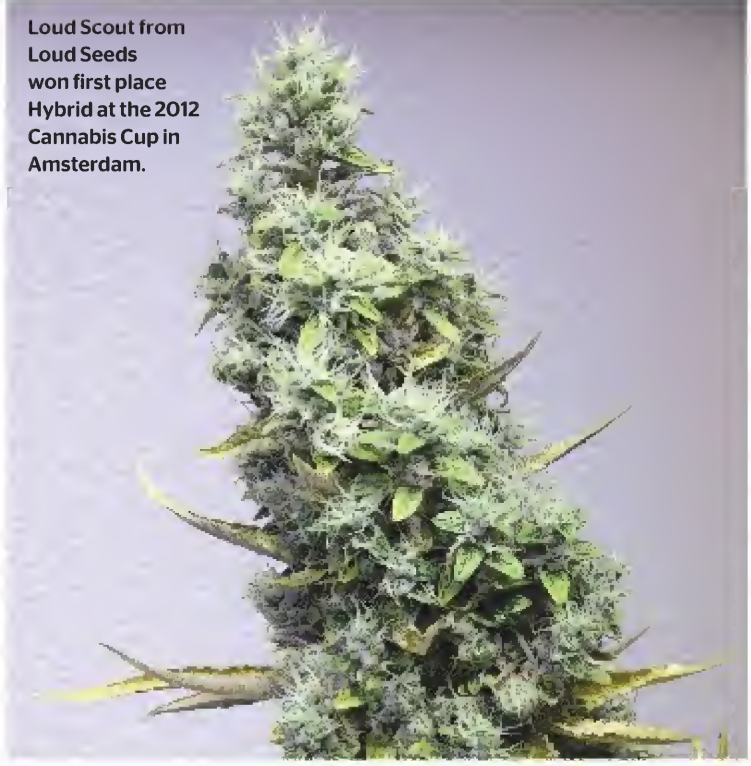
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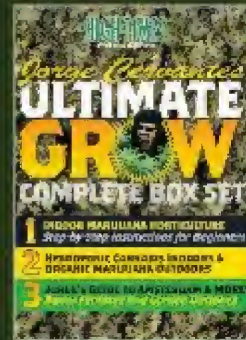


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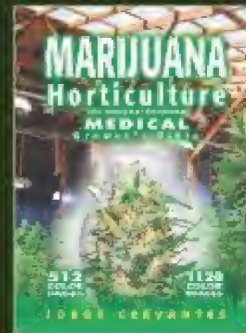
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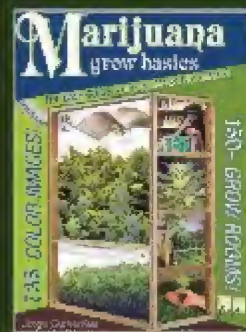
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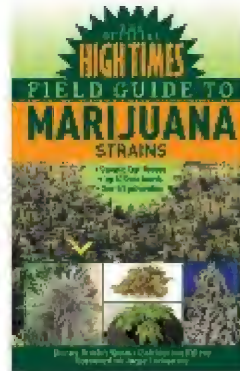
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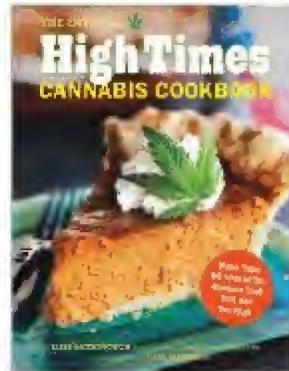
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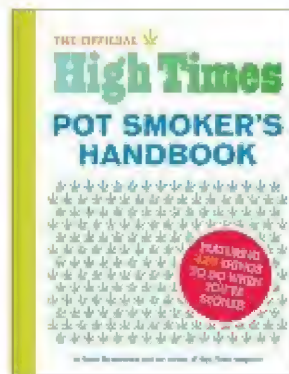
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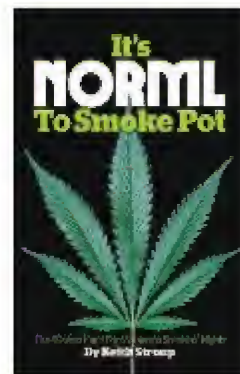
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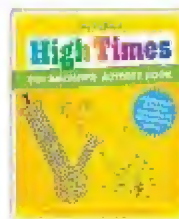
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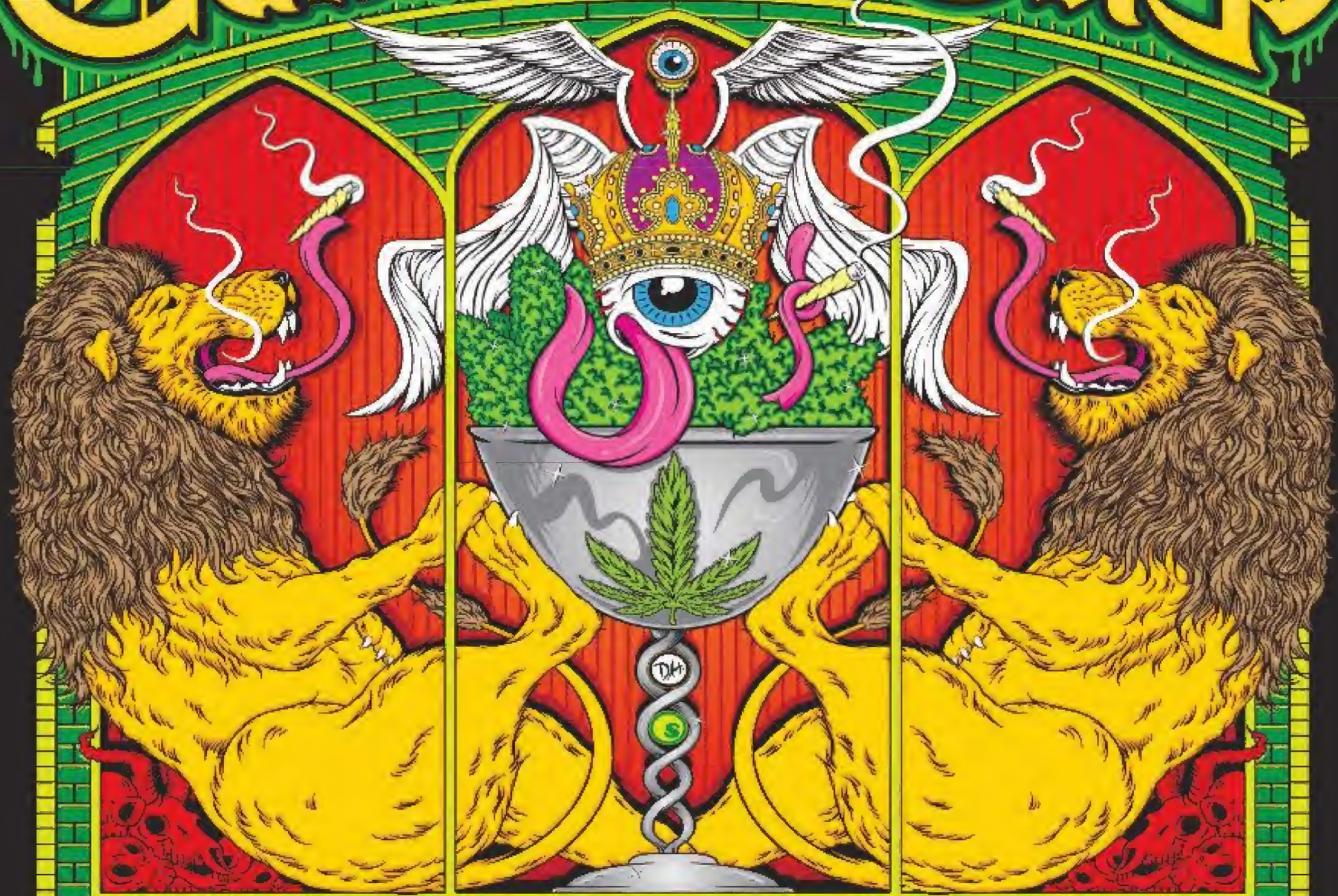


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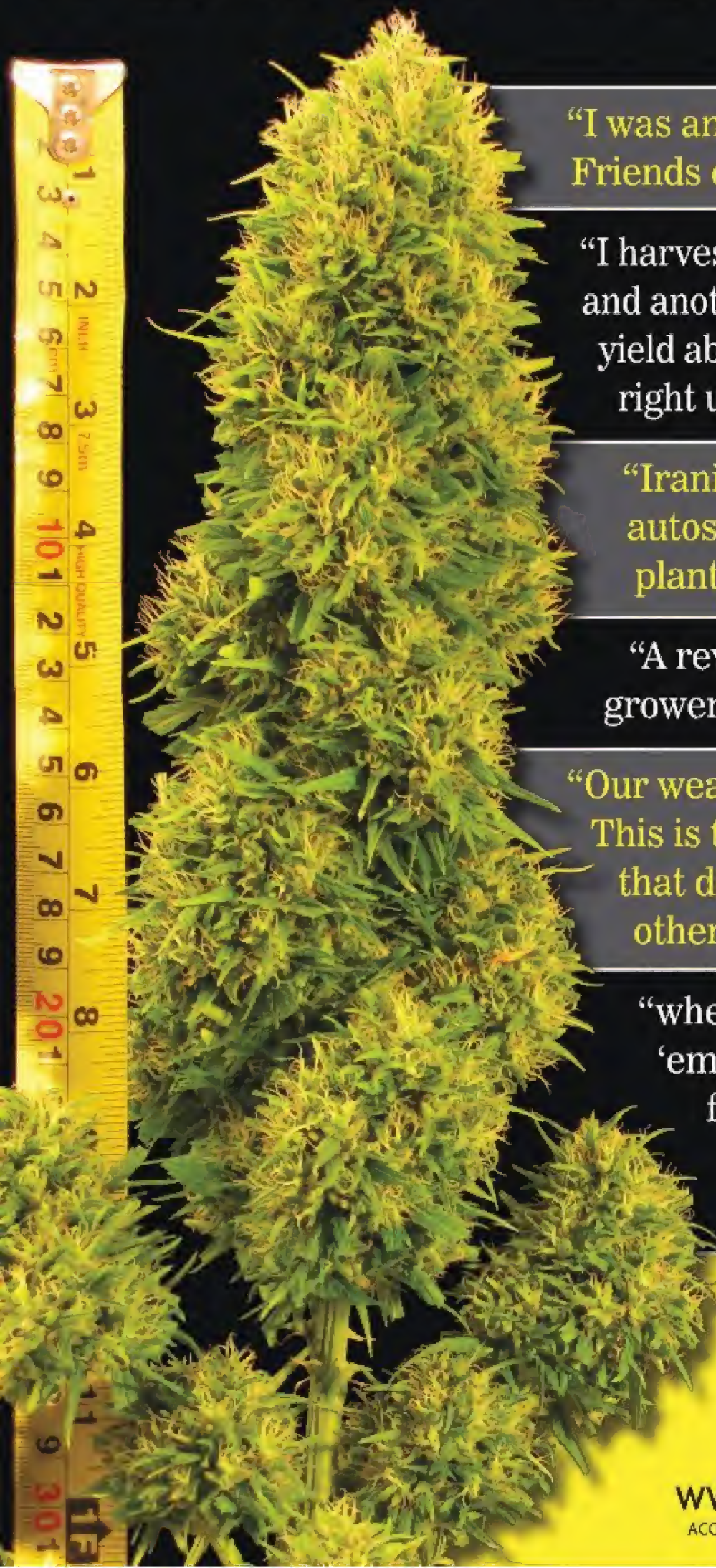
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